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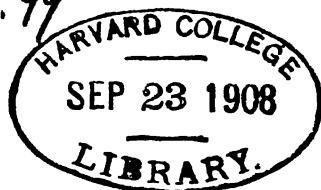
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This Report has been prepared and edited, on behalf of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners, by Mr. C. Litton Falkiner, M.A., M.R.I.A. The Index has been compiled by Miss M. Bradshaw, under Mr. Falkiner's direction.

INTRODUCTION.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, 1679-1681.

The portion of the correspondence of the first Duke of Ormond comprised in the present volume of this Report covers a period of exactly two years. For the reasons already given in the Introduction to the fourth volume of this series, the papers preserved at Kilkenny become increasingly numerous, in comparison with those relating to earlier periods, towards the close of the public career of the great Duke. Whereas in the previous volume the miscellaneous letters of a little more than three years (from January 1675-76 to March 1678-9), occupy 374 pages, no fewer than 619 pages are here taken up with the correspondence of the still shorter period from March 25, 1679 to March 24, 1680-81. And it will be found when the next volume is issued that the abundance of the Duke's letters from 1681 to 1685 is little, if at all, inferior to that of the period embraced in these pages. No one who is familiar with Carte's biography of Ormond, or is fairly conversant with the history of the time, would pretend that the last years of Ormond's third tenure of the Irish government are the most interesting in the crowded life of that illustrious cavalier—to adopt Macaulay's felicitous description of the Duke. The special prominence which these years receive in these pages is the result of the quite accidental circumstance that Carte dealt in less detail with this part of the subject than any other, and therefore had no occasion to include many of the Duke's later letters in the materials to which he helped himself so liberally.*

Ormond's principal and most voluminous correspondents in the present volume are his sons, the Earls of Ossory and Arran, whose letters are mainly conversant with the details of Irish government and with the course of politics in England; Michael Boyle, who as Archbishop of Armagh and Lord Chancellor combined in his own person the chief offices both of the Church and of the Law in Ireland;† Col. Edward Cooke, an intimate personal friend, whose letters from England detailing the movements of political intrigue at Westminster are lightened by much agreeable sporting gossip from Newmarket; Henry Coventry, whose retirement from the office of Principal Secretary of State occurred in 1680, and whose letters to Ormond both before and after that event contain a note of personal intimacy which is lacking in the communications of

* See Introduction to Vol. IV. p. v.

† The Primate defends himself against the charge that the combination of these offices in one person was improper, in a letter of considerable interest (see pp. 44-45).

other officials ; John Fell, Dean of Christ Church and Bishop of Oxford, whose letters mainly relate to Ormond's grandson, and ultimate successor in the Dukedom ; Francis Gwyn, who as Clerk to the Privy Council in England became, after the resignation of Coventry, the principal medium of official communications from the English Secretary's Office ; the Earl of Longford, whose voluminous and verbose epistles relate mainly to the management or mismanagement of the Irish Revenue ; and Roger Boyle, 1st Earl of Orrery, whose death in the autumn of 1679, removed a somewhat querulous critic of Ormond's administrative manners and methods.

In so far as these letters throw light upon the personal history of Ormond, they are chiefly valuable for the references they contain to his eldest son, Thomas, Earl of Ossory, whose premature and universally deplored death took place on July 29, 1680, and is referred to in terms of obviously sincere grief by several of Ormond's correspondents. Ossory died of a malignant fever, probably typhus, on the eve of his intended departure from England to take up the command of the troops at Tangier. This disorder is described in the report of the physicians attending the patient,* among them Ferdinand Mendaz, the physician of Queen Catherine, and in a certificate signed by the doctors who made a *post mortem* examination of the remains,† as well as in a letter from Richard Mulys, Ossory's private secretary, to Henry Gascoigne.‡ The symptoms suggest the worst form of typhus fever. The letters of condolence written to Ormond on this occasion by Charles II., and by Queen Catherine, to whose service Ossory had been particularly attached as her Chamberlain, have already been published in the first series of this report.§ Others here printed are from Arlington, whose close intimacy with Ossory was strengthened through the marriage of the two men to two sisters ; Sir Arthur Forbes, Viscount Granard, the head of the army in Ireland ; Dr. John Fell, Bishop of Oxford, who, as Dean of Christchurch, had charge of the education of Ossory's son, afterwards second Duke of Ormond ; James, Duke of York, afterwards James II. ; Primate Boyle ; Louis Duras, Earl of Feversham ; Sunderland, the statesman ; and Sir William Temple. The tributes paid to Ossory in the correspondence now printed exhibit him as a personage fully worthy alike of the sonorous eulogium passed by Dryden in *Absalom and Achitophel*, and of the unaffected sorrow exhibited by Evelyn. Perhaps the particular condolence which sets Ossory's character in the highest light is the remarkable language of Henry Coventry, one of the Secretaries of State, who in conveying to Ormond a very genuine expression of sorrow

* pp. 354-5.

† pp. 361-2.

‡ pp. 355-56.

§ Old Series, Vol. I. p. 30.

observed that "it is a very strange thing in so very bad an age to see so good a man lamented by so many of all sorts."* The somewhat chill philosophy of Sir William Temple's condolences is tempered by a feeling allusion to his own then recent loss of his only daughter.†

The education of Ossory's eldest son, James, afterwards second Duke of Ormond, which is referred to several times in the letters printed in Vol. IV., continued to absorb much of the old nobleman's attention. The Bishop of Oxford continues to report pretty frequently on the lad's demeanour at Oxford; and several letters from the lad's governor, Dr. Drelincourt, and others, are occupied with the same topic. The reports of the young Oxonian's conduct were not uniformly favourable; and occasionally the authority of tutors and governors had to be reinforced by the direct admonition of Ormond himself. A letter‡ dated Sept. 27, 1679, addressed by Ormond at Kilkenny to his grandson at Oxford, is an admirable example alike of the style appropriate to such a relationship, and of Ormond's stately conception of the obligations of a great position. After indicating a somewhat sardonic scepticism of the fine sentiments expressed in a letter lately written by the lad:—"I was glad to receive yours of the 9th, and would be gladder if I were sure it were of your own dictating, and that you did not send it to prevent just complaints of your miscarriage," Ormond goes on to reprove the vice of "laziness, and long lying abed" as "the thing in the world the most abhorred by me, having never seen any youth so addicted ever come to any good." He concludes with laying down this excellent rule of conduct for a lad with such prospects as his grandson's:—"I am further to warn you that if anybody shall go about to flatter you with your parts, birth or fortune, that you look upon them as your greatest enemies, and that you still remember that though you may be above some in these things, yet there are many that are your equals, and many more that are above you; and that if there were not, yet all those qualifications are but trappings that will the more expose you to contempt unless you fit yourself to them by civility, humanity and affability to all sorts of people, according to their degrees and merit."

Several letters bear witness to Ormond's personal tastes, and particularly to his fondness for field sports. His friend Col. Cooke, whose frequent letters describing the course of politics at Westminster are among the most interesting in the volume, was enjoined not to omit reference to sporting topics from his communications on more serious matters; and in more than one of his many letters he took his patron at his word. Thus, writing on March 29, 1679 from London, Cooke

* p. 365.

† p. 376.

‡ pp. 214-215.

occupies much of his space with an answer to "those material questions proposed in your (Ormond's) letter of March 20 concerning hawks, hounds, and horses"; giving a faithful account first of his sport in Gloucestershire with "a single goshawk and a single quarry of pheasants,—so cruel a pheasanter that we were fain to oblige ourselves not to kill above four brace in a day, that we might lengthen out our sport all winter." Cooke goes on to describe a day with the hounds in the same county; and concludes with some anecdotes of his horse-racing exploits which may perhaps provide a hint for the historian of the turf:—"I have the famous beautiful *Burnett* in my stable, who serves but to pick up Gloucestershire plates (of which we have abundance) and get foals finer than which never any stallion yet got. He is allowed by all his Newmarketarians as the handsomest horse now in England, comes eleven, and is sound to all intents and purposes."* It seems a pity that this *Saint Simon* of the seventeenth century should have no place in the stud book. This is by no means the only reference to sport which Cooke's letters contain. The last letter in this volume describes Charles the Second's enjoyment of a race run at Burford, near Oxford, for one of the King's Plates; as well as a day spent by the monarch in hawking at Oxford.† Coursing was another form of sport in which Ormond and his correspondent were interested; and another of Cooke's letters gives a capital account of a day's coursing at Hampton Court in presence of the Sovereign.

The purely political portion of the correspondence is occupied mainly with three topics, viz., the measures taken by Ormond and the Irish Privy Council to safeguard Ireland from the dangers apprehended as likely to result from the Popish Plot; the proceedings of Charles the Second's third Parliament, including more particularly the impeachment of Danby; and the fierce controversy provoked by the Exclusion Bill. Incidentally a good deal of light is thrown, in the course of the discussion of these topics, on English constitutional procedure. The first of them occupies a relatively small space, the anxieties of Ormond and his principal correspondents being concerned mainly with that ebb and flow of the political tide in England by which their own fortunes were dominated; and it receives attention chiefly as an item in the frequent indictments which Ormond's enemies at Court were wont to frame against him with a view to procuring his dismissal from office. An elaborate memorandum dated April 5, 1679, addressed by the Irish Privy Council to the Principal Secretary of State, recapitulates in considerable detail the measures taken by Ormond from the moment of "the discovery of the Plot in England" in Sep-

* p. 7.

† p. 617.

tember, 1678, and shows that the King and his chief advisers steadily adhered throughout the difficulties of this trying time to the policy which naturally commended itself to Ormond's own judgment, viz., the maintenance of order, and the steady enforcement of the measures enjoined by royal proclamation in England, coupled with a mild and discriminating lenity.

In "An Account of the Present State of Ireland presented by the Lord Butler of Moor Park to the House of Lords, March 31, 1679,"* Lord Ossory deals with the same topics, giving in detail a summary of the various proclamations and orders issued by the Irish Government. In this statement, as in almost every letter and document of this period in which the difficulties of the Irish administration are explained or referred to, stress is laid on the neglect of Ministers in England to concur in the calling together of the Irish Parliament, a step which from the moment of his accession to office in 1677 Ormond had earnestly desired and constantly advocated. After asserting that the defences of the country were upon the whole in a satisfactory condition, the memorandum proceeds as follows:—"The forts are in as good a condition as the stores and the revenue of that kingdom will allow, and perhaps somewhat better. But it is manifest much more is needful in every kind, in case of foreign attempts. And therefore seeing the charge of the Government and the income of the revenue are so nearly balanced by a settled establishment that it is not in the power of the Lord Lieutenant to alter the same, and that no money can be raised from his subjects except by Act of Parliament, therefore the Lord Lieutenant hath been long endeavouring to have a Parliament called; and to that end several bills were transmitted the last summer by the Lord Lieutenant, and now remain at the Council Board here, together with a large representation of the state of accounts depending with the Lord Ranelagh and his partners, who were late undertakers for the Revenue of that kingdom. And until there be leisure (which since the discovery of this horrid Plot there scarce hath been) to send back those things with the mature consideration they deserve, there is no visible means left for the raising and augmenting the public revenue to such a proportion as may put that kingdom into a sufficient posture of defence as to arming, fortifications and stores, in case of any powerful invasion. But for the present all things are there in full peace and quietness."†

Ossory's concluding remark was thoroughly justified by the facts. Indeed nothing is more noticeable in the voluminous documents bearing on the state of Ireland during the period of the agitation about the Popish Plot than the absence of

* pp. 15-20.

† p. 20.

any serious evidence of the existence of anything in the nature of a Roman Catholic conspiracy in Ireland. Carte's observation is indeed fully justified, that it was "a terrible slur on the credit of the Popish Plot in England that after it had made such a horrible noise and frightened people out of their senses in a nation where there was scarce one Papist to an hundred Protestants, there should not for above a year together appear so much as one witness from Ireland (a country otherwise fruitful enough in producing them), to give information of any conspiracy of the like nature in that kingdom, where there were fifteen Papists to one Protestant."* Several of the papers in this volume relate to the plot which for convenience may be called David FitzGerald's Plot, a conspiracy which was represented by Shaftesbury and the organizers of the agitation in England as having been contrived in concert with the conductors of the English Plot. But there is certainly nothing in them to substantiate any of the suggestions which were founded at the time on FitzGerald's unsupported and self-contradictory testimony. Ormond in his private communications with his son Ossory, who until his untimely death remained his chief agent and assistant in England, was at no pains to conceal his opinion that the supposed plots were manufactured by the agents of his own political enemies for no better object than to procure his dismissal from the Irish Government. "I do not so much wonder," he wrote in April 1680, "at the scandals cast upon us now as that it was not done sooner. But it was necessary to amuse the people, as with new plots so with new actors in them; and we were not forgotten but reserved to the last. The discoveries now on foot in the north and west of this kingdom can come to nothing by reason of the extravagant villainy and folly of the discoverers, who are such creatures that no schoolboy would trust them with a design for the robbing of an orchard. My Lord of Essex's tool is a silly drunken vagabond that cares not for hanging a month hence if in the meantime he may solace himself with brandy and tobacco. Murphy is all out as debauched, but a degree wiser than the others. The other fellow brought by Lord Shaftesbury to the Council broke prison, being in execution, and now the sheriff or jailer are sued for the debt. This is their true character; but perhaps not fit for you to give of them. If rogues they must be that discover roguery, these must be the best discoverers, because they are the greatest rogues."†

Ormond's letters at this period show that he was fully alive to the gravity of the attacks made upon him by the ultra-Protestant party in England, supported by the leaders of that interest in Ireland, of whom Lord Orrery and the members of the Boyle family were perhaps his most formidable opponents. But though in several passages he exhibits a

* Carte's *Life of Ormond*, ii. 495.

† p. 302.

certain weariness of the perpetual anxiety and conflict to which his position exposed him, a weariness natural to his advancing years, he also shows a fine determination not to be drawn by intrigue or obloquy from a situation in which he honestly believed himself capable of rendering useful service to his Sovereign. The trend of his personal inclinations at this time are frankly stated in a private letter to his friend Henry Coventry, who had just retired from office, and so was "in some degree gotten out of the storm." In it Ormond frankly states the nature of the considerations which obliged him to retain his place:—"I will not conceal from you the reasons that keep me in it, when a few lines importing a desire to retreat could help me out of it. My first reason is that methinks the Crown and Monarchy and my bountiful Master are too apparently threatened for a man that pretends to honour and gratitude to make a voluntary resignation, at least while he has vigour or vanity enough to persuade him he can contribute considerably to serve an interest he is obliged unto. The next is that I have a little stomach left yet that rises at the thought of giving some men their will just where they would have it of me. And in the last place it may be thought that the grandeur and emolument belonging to the station may be of force; and I will not deny but it is. But if I know myself it would not prevail against the quiet of body and mind that it may reasonably be believed I wish for at these years and might hope for in a retreat."* Nevertheless so little confidence had Ormond in being sufficiently supported to enable him to hold on, and so probable did it seem that "this place and I must part," that he concludes this letter by begging his friend to look out for a suitable residence for him within reach of Coventry's own lodge.

In the religious strife of the times, and in his attitude towards the rival clerical factions, Ormond occupied throughout his whole career a middle position to which, notwithstanding that his was the usual fate of the peacemaker, and that he continuously drew upon himself the maledictions of all the combatants, he adhered steadily to the end. How great were his difficulties, and of what nature they were, very clearly appears in one of his letters in the present volume. Defending himself in a letter to the Earl of Longford against the charge reported to him by his correspondent of not having exhibited sufficient activity in the suppression of the Plot and its sympathizers, he makes the following vigorous protest against the campaign of calumny with which he was assailed:—"Why should I wonder to find Papists and the worst of Protestants agree in their endeavours to destroy me? It has been my lot ever since I came into business, and I believe will be till I am out of it, and of the world

* p. 304.

“too. When the actions of a man’s life who has been in Government in difficult times are taken to pieces by a malicious observer, all the circumstances that can be taken against him singled and insisted, and those that make for him omitted, no doubt but he will make a strange figure. And if he should be put to refute all that should be thus collected and thus scattered, he would find work enough, and perhaps create himself more than he finds, by drawing on replications and new calumnies; and all the while beat the air as men do in the dark when they see no enemy.”*

The changes and developments of the British Constitution for which the reign of Charles the Second was remarkable are illustrated in several of the letters in this volume, notably in those of Col. Cooke and Henry Coventry. Thus a long letter from the first-named of these correspondents, dated April 22, 1679, is taken up with an account of the change in the composition and functions of the Privy Council which was accomplished at the instance of Sir William Temple:—“Sunday the 20th, was a day of great surprises. The King summoning his Privy Council dissolved them; declared he took no exceptions at any man, but thanked them well for their services; told them he was resolved for the future to have no Cabinet Council, and to reduce the Privy Council to the usual number of thirteen, besides a President, when there should be any, and the Secretary of Scotland when here, and those of the blood, as Prince Rupert.”† The letter goes on to describe in detail the *personnel* of the new Council, and concludes with the statement that “there is great expectation of great advantage from this change.” Several other letters refer to this important constitutional experiment; and it is of interest to learn from two among them that it was intended to reform the Irish Privy Council on somewhat similar lines. The Irish Council had long been admittedly unwieldy; Ormond, in one of his letters, writing thus:—“I have resisted several importunities to recommend persons fit enough to be Privy Councillors here—the number being, in my opinion, already greater than is needful or well consisting with the respect that ought to be incident to the dignity, and would be paid to it if fewer had it.”‡ The Viceroy could not therefore have been opposed in principle to the proposition which, following on the reform of the English Council, was communicated by Coventry:—“I suppose your Grace did, upon the news of the reduction made in the Council of England, foresee that something of that nature would follow in Ireland. His Majesty hath commanded me to signify to your Grace that he will proceed in the same method there; and therefore doth expect from your Grace a list of the present Councillors,

* p. 80.

† pp. 55.

‡ p. 326.

“and likewise what those officers are that you judge fitting should be Privy Councillors in Ireland by virtue of their places. His Majesty proposed the reducing the number of Privy Councillors in Ireland to twenty. I humbly offered my opinion that would be too little in respect several occasions did draw some members of them into this town always, which would leave few to supply the several Committees of Council the affairs of that kingdom require. However, I suppose there will be no resolution taken till His Majesty hath heard from your Grace.”*

But though Ormond was willing to concur in a reduction of the numbers of the Council, he had evidently other objections to the proposal, with which a suggestion communicated by Sir Cyril Wyche, to the effect that under the new system it was intended to place the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland in commission,† may have had something to do. His criticisms are not formulated in any of the letters here printed; but it appears from a letter written him by Sir William Temple‡ that Ormond had indicated them in a conversation with that statesman’s brother, Sir John Temple, and in a letter to Temple himself, in which he pointed out that a reduction of the number of the Council was inopportune in view of the then contemplated meeting of the Irish Parliament.§ Temple’s own plan was so short-lived, and his influence in the royal counsels so quickly shattered, that the delay occasioned by the hesitation of the Viceroy was sufficient to prevent the application of his system to Ireland.

Other constitutional questions which are canvassed in the course of this correspondence are the relations between the two Houses of Parliament, as illustrated by the frequent conferences between Lords and Commons concerning the arrangements for the impeachment of Danby, and the trial of the Five Lords. The many letters relating to these topics show how great was the strain on the working of the constitution at this period. Among the most hotly contested points of procedure were the right of the Lords spiritual to sit and vote on such occasions, a question which, however, was left unsettled when the sudden prorogation of the Parliament in May, 1679, followed by the unexpected dissolution in July, put an end to the controversy.

The principal topic of political discussion in the latter part of the volume is provided by the Exclusion Bill; and the Duke of York makes a frequent figure in the correspondence. Most of Ormond’s relatives and friends were, like himself, warmly attached to the heir presumptive to the Crown; and Ossory in particular, who had served with James in the sea-fights with the Dutch, was devotedly attached to his person. A letter

* p. 65.

† p. 59.

‡ p. 91.

§ p. 102.

from one of Ormond's intimates, Sir Thomas Wharton, gives an interesting account of the progress of the Duke of York and his Duchess from London to York in the autumn of 1679, on their way to Scotland, to which kingdom James had been bidden by his royal brother to retire. The progress occupied ten days, the journey being broken each night at a different point. The first night was passed at Hatfield, the second at an inn in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, the third at Huntingdon, the fourth at Stamford, the fifth at Grant-ham, the sixth at Newark, where they stayed over Sunday, the eighth at Welbeck, the ninth at Doncaster and the tenth at Pontefract. If the writer is to be relied upon, the Duke and his Duchess were the objects all along the road of striking demonstrations of loyalty and affection. Part of this letter may be quoted, for the picture it gives of the conditions of a journey through England by members of the royal family in the seventeenth century :—"At Tadcaster (eight miles from this place [York]) the Archbishop of York kissed the Duke and Duchess's hands in their coach, and so waited on them hither. The Sheriffs of the city were about three miles off; and after the Duke alighting, the Dean and Prebends first, and a little after my Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs, presented themselves in their formalities, and the Deputy Recorder made a speech in which he complimented the Duke, who himself brought them to kiss the Duchess's hand. My Lord Marquis of Athol came from London with the Duke, and his lady in the Duchess's coach, which troubles some left behind at London, as I am credibly informed. My Lady Roscommon has that honour too, and the Duke likes the company in the coach so well that he has not been on horseback all this journey, but sometimes walks a mile or two when the day is good The Duke's retinue is but small, my Lord Roscommon and a few of his family, and my Lord Lumley, a volunteer. One single troop came hither; and my Lord of Sackville's marches along from hence, and the other returns."* The contentions of which the Duke of York was the centre have an important place in the correspondence, several letters from Cooke, Gwyn and others dealing with the debates on the Exclusion Bill. One from Gwyn, dated Nov. 16, 1680, describes the concluding debate in the Lords when that measure was rejected, giving the name of the principal peers in favour of it, and mentioning Halifax as its most powerful and impressive opponent.†

Several letters in this volume have reference to affairs in Scotland in 1679, when the murder of Archbishop Sharp and the movements of the Covenanters gave occasion for the strengthening of the military forces in the north of Ireland.

* p. 235.

† p. 488.

An Order in Council, dated June 13, 1679, directed Ormond "to give immediate order for the marching towards the north "of Ireland of so many of his Majesty's forces there, as well "horse as foot, as his Grace thinks may conveniently be spared "without hazard to the peace and safety of that kingdom, "there to remain and attend further orders, if occasion shall "be for their being employed in the assistance of his Majesty's "subjects of the kingdoms of Scotland for suppressing the "Rebellion there."* Lord Granard was despatched to Charle-
mont, and some Irish troops were certainly despatched to Scot-
land in pursuance of this order, though no particulars of
their number or services are given in the correspondence on
the subject, which is chiefly interesting for its references
to Graham of Claverhouse; whose reported death is thus
communicated by one David Maxwell:—"We had news
yesterday that the Laird of Clavers, an honest gentleman
in Scotland, captain to a troop of horse, who hath done
good service against the rebels, was killed by them; but these
gentlemen affirm the contrary."†

The Duke of Monmouth, who is mentioned with approval
in connection with his humane treatment of the Covenanters,
is less favourably spoken of later in the volume in relation to
his pretensions to the succession. The attachment of Ormond
and Ossory to the Duke of York was too ardent to suffer
them to give the slightest countenance to the young Duke's
pretensions; and when, at the height of the young Duke's
brief popularity in 1679, all the courtiers were vying with
each other in attentions to him, Ossory wrote to his father
that "all the world now visits the Duke of Monmouth; but
considering how affairs now are between the King and him
I consider it not respectful in me towards his Majesty to make
that compliment"‡—an attitude which Ormond cordially
approved. A letter from Col. Cooke to Ormond, dated Dec.
2, 1679, gives an account of the removal of Monmouth from
all his civil and military appointments, and of the state of
public feeling regarding him.

The present volume is not as abundant as some others in
occasional communications from persons of eminence or dis-
tinction on topics lying outside the general scope of the
correspondence. An exception is, however, supplied by a
letter addressed by John Evelyn to Lord Ossory with reference
to a negotiation for the purchase of Chelsea House by
Ormond which was strongly recommended by the writer.
The advantages of Chelsea House as a residence are thus
depicted by the author of *Sylva*:—"I am extremely sorry for
"my Lord Duke's sake, but especially for your Lordship's,
"that you reject the opportunity is presented to you for the

* p. 129.

† p. 126.

‡ p. 246.

“purchasing of that sweet place at Chelsey upon so easy terms. . . . I have previously acquainted your Lordship with the particulars, that besides a magnificent house capable of being made (with small expense) perfectly modish, the offices, gardens and other accommodations for air, water, situation, vicinity to London, benefit of the river and mediocrity of price, are nowhere to be paralleled, I am sure, about this town or any that I know in England. There are with it to be added as many orange trees and other precious greens as are worth 500*l.*, the fruits of the gardens are exquisite, there is a snow-house—in a word, I know of no place more capable of being made the envy of all the noble retreats of the greatest persons near this Court and city; so that it ever grieves me your Lordship should not be master of it.”*

Evelyn’s encomium was supported by “A Particular of Chelsey House,”† furnished by Sir Stephen Fox, in which the mansion was represented as in perfect repair, and the grounds as comprising “sixteen acres of ground with several large gardens and courts all walled in and planted with the choicest fruits that could be collected either from abroad or in England.” “For this particular with the addition of all orange trees and other greens, fruit and flowers of all kinds with seats, rollers, tables and all garden utensils; also within the house all fixed necessities, as grates, chimney pieces and wainscot, the billiard table and a pair of marble tables and house clock, there will be paid 5,000*l.*” Evelyn evidently considered the place dirt-cheap at this price. Ormond, however, though not usually economical, was at this period somewhat embarrassed by the many expenses of his family, and he declined this offer of what a modern house-agent would term a highly eligible residence; causing Ossory to be informed in language of somewhat tart reproof that “as to the house at Chelsey, how good soever the bargain may be, the purchase is not agreeable to his condition, and he (Ormond) wonders that he hears nothing of your lordship’s affairs in Holland.”‡

The Editor desires once more to acknowledge the assistance rendered him in the work of transcription by Messrs. J. F. Morrissey and T. J. Morrissey of the Irish Record Office.

C. LITTON FALKNER.

* p. 279.

† p. 280.

‡ p. 289.

THE MANUSCRIPTS
OF THE
MARQUESS OF ORMONDE, K.P.,
KILKENNY CASTLE.

VOL. V.

EARL OF OSSORY to DUKE OF ORMOND.

1679, March 25. London.—I received your letter of the 20th of this month and showed it to the King when he was at the House, just after a long speech of my Lord of Shaftesbury's representing the dangerous condition of the kingdoms of Scotland and Ireland. He touched most upon two particulars, the Lord Dumbarton's regiment and the multitude of Papists in towns. I replied that the Duke of Monmouth being General could answer, as I averred he undertook that all the officers and soldiers were Protestants and had taken the oaths. As to the other things relating to the security of that kingdom, I promised them on Monday next that they should according to their desires have an account of what care had already been taken. The King read your letter with attention, but I find him so very thoughtful of things nearer hand as I believe he was pleased with your not immediately pressing him upon anything which might withdraw his thoughts from what is doing here. I fail not to let persons know that the recruits you desired were to be of English. This day my Lord Marquess of Winchester dined with me; and upon my entreating to know what the designs were of his friends to pick at you, he told me they believed you were placed in the post you are by the Duke, that at Bedford's house it was observed you had held long and private discourse with my Lord Arundel of Wardour, and that upon that score they were jealous of you. I replied that I thought your past service might secure you from such suspicions, and that I hoped that neither reflections would be made nor aspersions laid upon you without some colourable grounds. Though my Lord of Essex is doubted for his sincerity with that party, and that the King has spoke severely on him, yet I believe his aim is to succeed you. I doubt not but you hear of the great credit the Duke of Monmouth is now in, and how vigorously he opposes against the Papists.

I only asked my mother's and your permission for my wife to live with you if there should be appearance of any disorders here, or that I could not hope to have wherewithal to keep her in this place by being disappointed of my salary ; my sincere endeavours being to live according to the rules of morality in not hazarding to ruin others or myself in contracting debts unlikely for me to pay.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, March 25. London.—According to the orders I received [in yours] of the 20th I shall for the future in my acting an intelligencer's part leave out both prologue and epilogue, and begin and end with news. The enclosed votes will show that these two days have been busy ones, debates growing higher and higher in both Houses. It is said the King sent commands in writing to confirm the authority of honourable messengers to command the Earl of Danby to depart. Within an hour after the Black Rod closely searched his house at the Cockpit, and also at Wimbledon, but returned a *non est inventus*. The Commons (as appears by the votes) gave no other answer to the Lord's proposal of a Bill for those five particulars (in my last mentioned) which the Lords delivered unto them in a conference on Saturday, but a re-demand of justice upon the Earl of Danby, his sequestration from Parliament and commitment into custody. The two great businesses at present are the detection of the Plot and proportioning punishments for those crimes the two Houses are convinced the Earl of Danby was guilty of. Yet the Lords go on with the more moderate Bill for his being removed from the King's presence, incapable of employment, sitting in the Lord's House, in particular any pension or further title of honour. The Commons seem to go further : either he must appear or be impeached, and there the case now stands.

As for the Plot, it daily becomes more and more apparent. Yesterday there then appeared before the Lords, Madison, Bradshaw and Admson, for saying that my Lord Shaftesbury must be killed, because so violent an enemy and so great a disturber of the Papists, and were committed to prison ; as also one Mons. Gossene, who declared he would kill the King and twenty heretics more, if he had him in France. Also one Turner, who one Needham accused to be a confederate in the Plot, he having taken his oath at his examination before the Committee of Lords, made this declaration that he was both priest and Jesuit, yet did not believe that now he had taken his oath before a lawful authority, which he owned his lordship to be, he was bound to tell the truth ; and that it was not in the power of the Pope and Conclave, nay not of the whole Church of Rome to dispense with him if he should say otherwise than true ; and then absolutely denied that he

ever heard of the Plot. But some replied he might just as well be dispensed with to say this as to do what he was suspected for : he also was committed. The Committee is very industrious in drawing up charges against the Lords in the Tower, and say clear evidence appears against three of them, and too much against Powis and Petres. This ends with Tuesday night.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, March 29, London.—The scene of affairs is so shifting here, that he must be a much wiser man than I who is able to give your Grace a true prospect of the event of matters depending in Parliament. The Lords on Wednesday sent down a Bill for the banishing of the Earl of Danby, which was but a transcript of the Earl of Clarendon's Bill ; and the Commons reading it the next day the first time, and not judging banishment sufficient, upon the question for the second reading rejected it, because they had projected another severer bill of their own, wherein they assign him a certain day for appearing and coming in to his trial, and in case of failure to attain him and forfeit his honours and estate. This Bill was carried up to the Lords this day, but what success it will have there, or whether the Lords will not resent this rejection of their Bill by rejecting of it, is very uncertain. But it is certain unless the Commons have satisfaction in the point of the Earl of Danby they will give no money ; and what the consequence of that is like to be your Grace can very well judge in the present circumstances of His Majesty's affairs.

I have sent your Grace the enclosed speech of my Lord Shaftesbury,* that your Grace may from thence see how necessary it is to look about you. I am told that upon it my Lord Ossory has undertaken by Monday or Tuesday to give the Committee of the Lords an account of what your Grace has done there since this discovery of the Plot for the security of the Protestants, which is a matter well to be considered before he gives it in. It has been my misfortune to be now a prisoner since my wife has fallen ill of the smallpox, the danger whereof, though I thank God it is over and she is in a fair way of recovery, yet for decency sake I am prohibited from going abroad for a day or two ; and believing that I might have heard from my Lord Ossory in this affair I have put all my papers and letters in order to assist him, and I went last night to Mr. Secretary Coventry to discourse him in it, to which my Lord Ossory has made him as great a stranger as me hitherto ; and so the work be well done, which I hope it will be, by Sir Robert Southwell, Sir Cyril Wyche and Colonel Vernon, whom I understand my Lord Ossory has called to his assistance, Mr. Secretary and myself

* See Carte's *Life of Ormond*, Vol. ii ; Appendix p. 90.

shall be very well satisfied, though we think the part my lord has undertaken is very nice, because the state of Ireland is desired by some not so much to receive satisfaction from your Grace's proceedings there as to find an occasion of carping at them to prejudice your Grace. And we are the rather induced to believe this, because it is said my Lord Shaftesbury yesterday moved that the Government of Ireland might be put into Commission, which is a very quick way of judgment by condemning you before you are heard. Upon the whole matter it is Mr. Secretary's opinion, with which I do also concur, that your Grace should immediately send away my Lord Arran, who having been upon the place, and an eye-witness of all transactions, will be able to give a more authentic state of things, and can answer any objections that shall be made better than any upon the place here, or any other you can send from thence, because of the place he has in the House of Lords, and a title to be with the Committee when he pleases. And in this no time is to be lost, for your Grace's envyers are mustering of their forces, my Lord Roberts being expected in town this week. Besides my Lord Arran has good credit with the King, and has the ready method of finding opportunities to speak to His Majesty, and preventing the impressions that may be made by misrepresentations of things. And though it may be inconvenient to his own affairs to come hither at this conjuncture, yet I am sure he will sacrifice his own interests to support your Grace's, which now require speedy assistance to obviate the intrigues of your enemies. I do not apprehend any mischief from the House of Commons, where I am sure your Grace has many faithful friends and servants who will be the more confirmed in their resolution by discoursing with my Lord Arran, for (my lord) it is not libels only which he must contend with.

Sir Thomas Chicheley was with me yesterday, and seemed to be concerned that objections are made in Council against the notes which he sent of the stores and arms sent thither from hence, which he protests are the very same which the King allows here, and, if the goodness of them are considered, above the value of the arms, powder and stores the merchants would bring in. He is confident there can be no objection. For all the arms and powder he sent are paid, and the materials for the match they buy here at easier rates from France; and therefore he says if your Grace would have such commodities as are good the price must be accordingly.

Sir Robert Southwell yesterday justified himself with great applause and satisfaction to the House of Commons, in a complaint [which] was made against him by one Chetwynd, as if he had suppressed some paper of Dugdale's evidence. and when the House were considering of the punishment ought to be inflicted upon his false accuser, he in great generosity interposed for their passing it by.

My Lord Ossory has just now by Sir James Butler desired me tomorrow morning to attend him about the representation he designs to make to the Lords on Monday. And I am also told that the Bill against my Lord Danby will not be carried up to the Lords till Monday, though it passed the Commons this morning. And because the Secret Committee should have time to prepare their report, it is believed the Commons on Monday will adjourn for two or three days.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, March 29.—You will hear from our worthy friend Sir Robert Southwell that on Monday next I am to give the Lords' House an account of such things as have been done in Ireland relating to the Papists. My Lords of Shaftesbury and Halifax, I hope, will be satisfied that others are zealous as themselves in what concerns the safety of religion and the interests of the King. This evening I brought my Lord Cavendish to Court, the King having done it at my request. I hope I have already acted according to the advice you gave me in the letter Mr. St. Leger gave me from you this morning, and that I shall have the grace to so behave myself as not to be guilty of any unjust or partial vote.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1679, March 29, Saturday, St. James's Square.—Mr. Secretary having not been able for some days to go out of his house, and the unsettled condition of the Treasury, my Lord Treasurer going off the stage, and five Commissioners entering, have been the reasons why your four letters lately transmitted have not yet been despatched.

The Lords have thought fit to inquire into the Government of Ireland, and my Lord Ossory it seems is to bring them in an account of what proceedings have been made for the security of that kingdom in this imminent danger since the first discovery of the Plot, and this day I received a note from Sir Robert Southwell to meet him at my lord's lodgings tomorrow morning. I will carry along with me all the proclamations I have received, and letters that brought any knowledge of these matters, and give his lordship all the information I can. But the best account his lordship will be able to give will be but an imperfect one, and therefore not such as will be fully for your Grace's service; so that I think it necessary to desire his lordship to pray time to send to your Grace for a perfect narrative, which will at once satisfy their lordships and clearly answer all those scandalous libels or false reports or malicious interpretations which have filled the town, and your Grace has from other hands heard of. 'Tis some time ago since I remember I humbly moved this thing to your Grace, which would then have been of great use to prevent these misunderstandings, and is now expected.

EARL OF STRAFFORD to ORMOND.

1679, March 29, London.—Your Grace's letter of the 8th instant in answer to one of mine I received but a few days since, and have not upon it any further occasion to add to the trouble I gave you before, only to say this much to that part you are pleased to mention, that I may be confident what I said could not be justly interpreted to reflect upon your Grace; nor indeed was there anything to be excepted against by those that are of the contrary religion, though my aim was and shall be to do my duty the best I can, and not otherwise to study being acceptable. If your Grace had perfectly heard how that matter was, you would not have thought me to blame for not saying anything of you, as you still seem to imagine; but that I might have expressed what I did in many respects much better I do not at all doubt. Yet I believe your Grace may easily call to mind that few of us are so clearly masters of our language in Parliament as not to make greater suspicions than those you have conceived of me; and though I cannot deliver myself by far so well as many others, yet I think for missing to say what I ought in relation to any particular person I cannot truly be taxed for much greater defect at any time to them than they to me, without excepting any lord in the House, for I am very strictly careful to answer all the obligations I have to the best of my power.

All things relating to Ireland are very speedily to be brought before the Lords, and then I hope it will not be long before they have cause to be fully satisfied with all you have done, and that your Grace will understand there can be no wrong impressions received of you by them, and for my part I shall never go about to give wrong to them nor any else of anyone. My lord thus much I have not been well able to forbear to write, and it is all I have to say.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, March 29, London.—I delay writing so late to you on post days out of greediness after news, and staying for the votes of the House of Commons, that I often write in an illegible hurry for fear of losing the opportunity of the post, so that I had not time by the last to assert the truth of the Clancy-Whitehead's papers, which I can boldly assure you is literally true. Now for those material questions proposed in your letters of March the 20th concerning Hawks, Hounds and Horses. As for the first I have reduced myself to a single goshawk, and her to a single quarry of pheasants, because since I have lived with my brother that country is full of unpassable brooks, and of partridges that by the hawks going out at them we often lost the day's sport and her too for some time, and that taught other hawks to poute. This I have now is so cruel a pheasanter that we were fain

to oblige ourselves but to kill above four brace in a day that we might lengthen out our sport all winter; which we did, till my brother's being chose for Gloucester removed us to London, and her into the mew. As for hounds I never had or saw sixteen couple of better chase hounds, nor ever any man did improve a bad winter to so much sport. I went out with a hurdle of old finders no further than my brother's park, and if they did but challenge on a drag of a fox, I presently uncouple 12 or 14 couple of staunch buckhounds, with assurance that when they have first but touched of a fox they will not that day trouble the deer, though they never so often carry their chase through all the herds in the park. Then after I had sealed or earthed I coupled up my finders and bestowed the rest of that day's light a hare-hunting with all the same hounds, nay if I missed of a fox (which is very seldom) if I can find a barren doe single, or can but so, I run her whole in the park, and not a hound will so much as look after a male deer, who in the summer scorn to touch upon a rascal deer, and that chase ended I hasten to hare-hunting all the day after, and all this with the same hounds, who I find fitter to hold each chase for being habituated to all. Lastly for horses, I have kept 12 at house all this winter, some in heats, some for hunting and some for haglings. I have the famous beautiful *Burnett* in my stable, who serves but to pick up Gloucestershire plates (of which we have abundance) and get foals, finer than which never any stallion yet got. He is allowed by all the Newmarketarians as the handsomest horse now in England, comes eleven and is sound to all intents and purposes. Also a flea-bitten gelding who cost fifty guineas, is exactly sound and the pleasantest beast under one a-hunting I ever crossed for months, easy-going, safe and sure leaping. He hath but one fault, (which is no great one to me, considering the number of beasts I have to relieve him with), two days a week is the utmost he will endure and keep his flesh tolerably. I have a famous brown gelding cost fort guineas, and several others, so that if a small officer be wanted when the French assault Ireland I am ready mounted to attend the summons, and willingly do it with more delight than ever I went a fox-hunting, or to victuals after it. If I have transgressed by usurping upon time by so enlarged and unprofitable a discourse, be pleased to see the danger of provoking a man at his own weapon.

I observe one other part of your letter mentioning French and Papists, two terms of art in every malicious mouth, completing revenge on whomsoever either can be pinned, and considering the easy credulity of this uncharitable age, it seldom fails to stick on whomsoever it is thrown. In a short time I fear jealousy on one hand or other will leave us no Protestants; for the Papists have of late so interwoven

themselves with all sorts of Dissenters, that not to conform to our Church gives supposition *ipso facto* of conformity to that of Rome, and they again from the decency of our disciplines which they nickname superstition call all who do conform, Papists. So that were Our Saviour himself on earth again there would be those who would brand even him with that fashionable calumny of Papist, and if Papist Frenchman too ; which is but natural enough, for he that is the former must endeavour the propagation of his heresy, and no expedient is so proper to carry on that great damnable work as that lawless prince and his irresistible power. I confess I cannot recal my pity from him that is withdrawn who (to my knowledge) hated both Papist and French, and was sufficiently hated by them, and yet (in a great measure) suffered as their patron ; who thereby have an opportunity to insult over him, and are not mealy-mouthed in making use of it.

Now to the work of the day : our proceedings in both Houses since Tuesday. Wednesday the 26th the Lords sat morning and afternoon to finish a sharp bill to cut off all capacities in England of pensions or honours and be banished for ever. This bill is absolutely the same as that of my Lord Clarendon *verbatim*, with the addition only of revoking all grants since the time of the attainder. This was more expeditiously despatched because they would anticipate the Commons bill, which is a summons by a day to appear, or in default *ipso facto* attainder to follow, which they on Thursday were only to read a second time. To prevent which, the Masters in Chancery had the Bill that night to clap into the House as soon as prayers should be ended. Some interlocutory passages happened in the afternoon remarkable enough. As that of the zeal of my Lord Shaftesbury for public safety, who revived the objections of last session against Sir John Robinson, for letting the Popish prisoners come together, for which the Duke of Monmouth was then entrusted to discourse His Majesty, in order to Sir John's removal. The Duke answered that the King did intend to turn him out, only wanted money to pay him off. My Lord also complained of several Papists in the Tower. The Duke answered (that is the Duke of Monmouth) that there was but one there that had refused the oaths and tests, and he only had a fortnight's time given him to dispose of his concerns. The Earl made answer that many were known to be Papists, and though they had done all that could be legally required. yet we must not suffer ourselves to be legally outdone, and stretched his complaints yet further to the Fleet and Garrison, particularly Portsmouth, urging it was well known who had put all officers in, and that our safetys were so much affected in their removal that till they were changed the Commons would never give money. My Lord Cornbury answered for the

Governor of Portsmouth, honest George Legg, that he, his father, mother, nay grandfather also, had ever been Protestants; but their discourse begun too late to be finished that night. The Commons rose early, having only what the votes of that day expresses before them; only extraordinary was the eloquence of many in that matter of the Earl of Danby, but the stream ran one way. There hath yet been but one division of that House, and that was about the Chairman of the Committee of Elections, when Sir Thomas Meres carried it but by six voices against one, Mr. Treby of the West. The information against Sir John Robinson is from Mr. Oates, that he hath long known and concealed the Plot. That order for a Committee to inspect temporary lots chiefly aims at the Irish Cattle Bill. Sir Robert Southwell's information was from one Mr. Chetwynd, as if Sir Robert Southwell had stifled Mr. Dugdale's evidence; who being asked at the Committee of the Council whether he knew anything of Sir Ed. Berry Godfrey's death, announced Yes, he heard of it, and immediately complained to Father Evers of it as what would greatly reflect on the Papists, who answered no, that he had been a great persecutor of bawdy houses, and it would be thought some of those streeters had taken revenge. This much he evidenced, but after being gone from the Committee, recollecting himself, remembered that the account came in a letter from Green's or Pickering; that that night they had despatched Sir Ed. B. Godfrey, which expression appropriated it to the priests, who seem to renounce the guilt. But it will appear he said this after he was gone, not while he was at the Committee of the Council. They talk much of the provisions made in the bill for regulating elections, to prevent all debaucheries and undue practices, which will be a very good work (I am sure a very difficult one) Great also is the commendations of that bill for the better discovery and conviction of Popish recusants, sent down by the Lords.

On Thursday March 27 as soon as the Commons were sat, the Masters of Chancery presented the Bill for the banishment of the Earl of Danby, and at last had only these two additional clauses, one to detect all purchases made by him in other names, with severe penalties to such as shall conceal them; the other to prevent all pardons but by Act of Parliament. This those who loved him least in the Lords' House thought punishment enough, and most who loved him best submitted to it to prevent worse which they understood was designed him by the Commons. The Commons resisted the reading of the Bill, though the Masters of Chancery emphatically desired their concurrence; and fell upon those lesser things confined in the Votes; then read their own Bill of Impeachment against him a second time and committed it, and when they had read over the

Lords' Bill for banishment by vote rejected it *nemine contradicente*. So that if the Lords serve their Bill of Attainder so too, the work might stand still. And though the Commons have ordered the Lords' bill for the better discovery and easier conviction of recusants a second reading, yet it is supposed they will never so much as commit it, as being less than they intend. The Commons rose early this morning, because the Committee of Secrecy was to sit in the afternoon to draw up the charge against the Lords in the Tower. The Lords also rose early and did like, only they had Captain Spaulding before them, the Deputy Governor of Chepstow, who was before imprisoned by the Lords, and was indulged to be at liberty on bail; which he construed a discharge and returned to his command, which was one part of his crime: another that he beat one of his soldiers, indeed a servant of his, for he was his falconer, who it seems had heard him say that had he known Bedloe would have been such a witness he would have stopped his mouth when he had him in his Castle; for all which he was recommitted, and his employment disposed of.

Yesterday March 28, was almost an idle day; the Commons doing little, the Lords less. The enclosed Votes will show the transactions of the former, with this paraphrase: that letter mentioned in the second paragraph was delivered by one Mr. Cole to the Speaker; he received it by the post. It was subscribed by one Christopher Boynton: its contents, to bespeak great care, else this month would expire the King; the Parliament and the Tower would be in great danger. This the London members were to trace out, to detect it if a trick and prevent it if a plot. The accusation of Sir Robert Southwell brought his entries of all the examinations before the House, when they appeared so very methodical and such that he gained great applause, and his accuser no rebuke, because it appeared to be the result of his zeal, not ill will. The Lords sat late and rose early having despatched some trivial petitions, and resolved into a Grand Committee for religion, debated some heads for the securing Popish children's education, and so adjourned. The reason the Commons rose so early was in favour of the Committee of Secrecy, who have much work on their hands.

This day the Lords having adjusted some complaints about breach of privilege, again returned themselves into a Grand Committee, and renewed the consideration of Religion, extending their zeal against Popery to the deprivation not only of Papists themselves from all places of profit and trust, but also all such persons who for the future shall intermarry with Papists, nay and comprehending under that motion (places and offices of profit and trust) all Colleges and Societies, as physicians and lawyers, nay even to Heralds also, and many others too numerous to mention. The Commons after they had given directions in some scrupulous disputes

about elections, and sworn some fresh members, those four who serve for London gave an account that searching after the author of that letter which warned the Speaker lest ill befel the King, Parliament and Tower of London, they had met with another verbatim duplicate of that letter, but directed to another person, yet wrote like the same hand; whence they inferred this to be but a false alarm, but possibly only calculated to beget security when there should be a true one. Then was reported the Bill of Attainder against my Lord Treasurer with all its amendments and alterations, with which the House concurred. The 10th of April is the last day for his coming in. Then the consideration of the disbanding of the Army took place; but because that day was spent, the debate (as appears by the votes) was adjourned till Tuesday morning, to which time the House adjourned that the Committee of Secrecy might leisurably draw up the charge against the Tower Lords. Our old acquaintance Sir Robert Walsh appeared this day before the Commons, brought in by [Every]* who accused Sir John Robinson of having known the Plot four years since and stifling it, and imprisoning him lest he should discover it. Sir Robert was called to justify that he told him of the Plot so long since, Sir Robert did testify for it, adding he could tell him no more than he knew before, whereon he was asked whether he knew anything of the Plot, answered yes, possibly more than had yet been discovered, and that he was ready to discover it when asked. He is referred to the Committee of Secrecy; he only yet mentioned Bishop Talbot.

ORMOND TO COLONEL EDWARD COOKE.

1679, March 31, Dublin.—Though I have nothing to return but my thanks in recompense for the pains you take to give me information, yet it is fit you should know you do not absolutely lose those pains. The last I had or could have from you by this post were of the 22 and 25 of this month. It is true I had from other hands something more than you writ of smart glances at me, such as the author is a great master at, which I neither wonder nor grumble at. I have the luck to be in this way and I must take my chance. Yet it is observable that the same man who helped to heave me out of this place once before is now lifting at me again, but in very different company, and for very opposite reasons. What the reasons of my first remove were, I will not mention, nor trouble you with refuting the latter. Let time and opportunity work.

REV. HENRY ALDRICH† to SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

1679, March 31, Christ Church.—I am extremely sorry the first address I am to make to you is upon so ill an occasion,

* This name is indistinctly written. Possibly John Every, who sat for Bridport in the Parliament of 1679 is intended.

† Rev. Henry Aldrich (1647-1710) afterwards Dean of Christ Church.

and though it is a hard matter for a man in my position to write sparingly upon so copious a subject, I shall endeavour to shorten your trouble as much as I can, and give you a bare account of matter of fact in a business wherein the great esteem the world has of you makes me glad you are so nearly concerned. I must only beg leave to trouble you with some circumstances which perhaps may appear impertinent till you have considered the whole story, and allege in my excuse that I omit an incredible number; that is all the odious ones. I have the honour to be recommended to the service of my Lord Ossory, and think myself so far qualified for it as a due sense of his descent, his quality, his great and noble actions, and a particular esteem for his person can make me. I do with all respect and gratitude acknowledge the obligation I lie under in being trusted with so considerable a charge, especially because my Lord James his good understanding and singular good nature make my business a great pleasure as well as a reputation to me. I am likewise honoured with the care of Mr. Berkeley, son to my Lord John Berkeley, whom my father served many years before his death, and is still of the family. This Mr. Berkeley during the two years he has passed among us has had either the merit or the good luck to be very well esteemed and beloved in the College, and I must do him the justice to profess that besides his many others good qualities he has been as well tempered and tractable as any youth I ever knew. Yet it seems by some misadventure he had a difference with my Lord James Butler, which if no children but themselves had interposed in would have proved no great matter, but being well husbanded bred a great deal of disturbance. I must accuse myself of being [*obliterated*] to my Lord James that though I had then reason to believe and can now prove that Mr. Berkeley was much innocenter than he was represented, yet I obliged him to wait upon my Lord to acknowledge that he had behaved himself very rudely to his Lordship, that he was ashamed and sorry for it, that he begged his pardon, that he sued for a reconciliation, and promised never to give any occasion to any future difference. Upon this submission they were very good friends to all appearance, and likely so to continue, till, I know not how, last night there grew another quarrel, wherein I know so well who was faulty that I desire somebody else may tell. And besides I am content for the present to let Mr. Berkeley lie under as great imputation as can be fixed upon a child, and shall hereafter endeavour to clear him from the aspersions of Mr. Drelincourt, who has taken great pains to put a most foul and odious character upon a young nobleman who had a clear and unblemished reputation till he came to Christ Church. This last rencounter Mr. Drelincourt resented so nearly that he came to Mr. Berkeley's chamber with a deep

design to find the child there alone and beat him. Finding him not at home he went, as himself owns, on a Sunday night to all the alehouses in town in quest of him; but still missing him resolved to waylay him as he came from nine o'clock prayers. It was my fortune (having had some notice of the young gentlemen's bickering) not to go home with Mr. Berkeley as I use to do, but to step up to my Lord James to hear what complaint in order to giving him all the reparation in my power. By this accident Mr. Drelincourt found Mr. Berkeley without me going home, and laid hold of him, and when he had run him up to the wall, he asked me why he had abused my Lord James. Mr. Berkeley told him he had not. Mr. Drelincourt's answer was, as some tell me, "you lie, you dog," another "Sirrah you lie," as himself owns "you lie," with some other harsh word, but not dog; and he accompanied it with four or five hearty boxes on the ear, such as might well pass for a handsell. You will easily understand that this nettled some of the young scholars that were passing by, and immediately came about them, when by good fortune Mr. Thynne in his way home took notice of the scuffle and parted them. These *[obliterated]* ill circumstances I omit, because they cannot be formally related, and would look like a libel upon any that was out of long clothes; and this much will be sufficient to give my Lord Ossory and yourself a taste how extraordinary hands my Lord James is fallen into, and how great obligation Mr. Drelincourt puts upon all persons that have been careful to recommend, entertain or countenance him. I shall not trouble you with the unanimous *[obliterated]* of all in this place that have knowledge of the affair, nor anyways pretend to prescribe my Lord's resentment nor yours, but rest altogether satisfied that my Lord is a person of that worth and honour that he will take better notice of it than we can suggest to him. I must only beg my Lord's pardon and yours, as I must all gentlemen's, that having so foul a story to tell I am able to do it with so much patience.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, March 31. Dublin. You tell me in yours of the 22nd that I have the effect of my memorial by the sending of my Lord Dumbarton's regiment. It is not now the time to dispute that, but if the governor of the place shall call for ammunition and I should only send him bullets he would hardly think his desire complied with. The men are not yet landed, that is they were not on the 28th of this month, and if my Lord of Shaftesbury's remarks (which he seldom lets fall to the ground) shall be pursued, perhaps it may come to an address that they may be stopt, in which case they will surely think it fit to send some other in their place if the danger of this Kingdom be really believed to be as great as

has been represented and as in truth it is. That the noble lord likes not the management of affairs here I easily believe, or that he ever will as long as I am in the Government. He was of the same opinion once before, but for a quite opposite reason. Then I was not Frenchman enough, nor satisfied with the commission set on foot by Colonel Talbot's negotiation in favour of the Irish Papists and to the ruin of the English Protestant interest in Ireland, of which commission he was; and of all the Council I only opposed till the Parliament thought fit to address against it; but now the shaking of his head seems to import I am too indulgent to the Papists. There is no possible or positive answer to be made to such kind of insinuations, nor do I understand what kind of account it is that you undertook to bring in the Monday following, by whom it was required or how you will perform it, of all which I wish you had written more distinctly; but I presume you have not bound yourself and much less me to what you can then produce, as I guess it must be some narrative of what has been done by me here in order to the securing of this Kingdom, which how you will collect and put together I know not. If it be put in writing it is exposed to the objections of witty men resolved to dislike it beforehand, and for a discourse it must be too long. What it is and what the success of it I must expect to know by letters of the 1st of April, for it is now too late to advise on the point.

I am obliged to the lord that told you what it was that provoked his friends to glance at me, but both the particulars are no better than surmises, and if those pass with them for such truths as to found prejudices upon I had rather they were any man's friends than mine. That the Duke placed me here is really more than I and certainly more than they can know. That he placed one of those friends in the Lords' House I have very good reason to believe, and that he afterwards did help to put him from the Council and another friend out of a great place they believe and have shown they well remember it. Till I know what steady forms the affairs shall be put into I conceive it will be in vain to represent the state of things there or rather to mind them of what has been represented. In the state things are I should think they cannot long continue. When you wrote concerning my Lord of Essex, his aim to come hither again, I suppose you did not know he was designed to be one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, which is such a step to be single in it that I think he will not quit it for this Government at such a time as this. If you had inquired of Mr. Secretary Coventry what I writ to him of the Chief Justice's place you would have been satisfied that I had fairly done my duty and no more, and to that I must now refer you. When the Irish bills shall be taken into consideration it will be time enough to satisfy my Lord Burlington that there is no preference

given to the nominees, and that there can be no danger that the English interest can receive any hurt by them, though they should be sent over as they are, and not mended as they may be there at Council.

EARL OF OSSORY'S MEMORANDUM ON THE STATE OF
IRELAND.

An Account of the Present State of Ireland presented by the Lord Butler of Moor Park* to the House of Lords, March 31, 1679.

An extract of some Letters, Orders, and Proclamations which have come from Ireland, some to the Council Board and some to particular hands, which in part show what hath been done since the discovery of the Plot and how things stand there in the general, referring for full and exact information unto such account as by the Lord Lieutenant and Council of that kingdom will doubtless be given when required thereunto.

1. That when news of the discovery of the Plot, and His Majesty's orders of the 1st of October last came to the Lord Lieutenant, which was about the 7th following, his lordship was then at Kilkenny, newly returned from a progress made by him into Munster to view the forts and places fit for fortification, and in particular from seeing the new fort begun by his order the March preceding for the defence of the harbour of Kinsale, which work hath since gone on, and upon which is already expended about the sum of £5,000, it being a work of great importance to the safety of that Kingdom, and the security of all ships resorting to that harbour.

2. But according to the said Order the Lord Lieutenant did presently issue a warrant for the seizure of Peter Talbot and of his papers, and he was accordingly seized and made close prisoner in the Castle of Dublin where he now so remains ; and the examinations taken were transmitted to His Majesty in Council, and from thence to the House of Lords the last Parliament, together with a paper writ with his own hand, being an account of treason laid to his charge by one Sergeant, which paper 'tis he desires should be found ; for no other papers of moment could be found either in his chamber or in his trunk, he having had time enough to put all out of reach by the tidings it is likely he and many other Papists did receive of the discovery of a Plot by Mr. Oates at the Council Board on Saturday the 20th of September and the intelligence sent away that night. The Lord Lieutenant did also according to his orders secure Mr. Butler, a son of the Lord Mountgarret ; but that Lord himself being of extreme age and infirmities was and lies still bedrid ; and Colonel Richard Talbot was also committed to safe and close custody

* The title by which Lord Ossory was called to the House of Lords.

as soon as ever the orders and accusation were transmitted into Ireland, and so he still remains.

3. The Lord Lieutenant also hastened to Dublin, and coming there the 11th of October he presently called up the Council, and they met from day to day and did issue from time to time several proclamations and orders as follows :

14 October 1678. A proclamation strictly requiring all officers and soldiers to repair to their respective quarters, and not to depart without license.

16 October 1678*. A proclamation requiring all titular Archbishops, Vicars-General, Abbots and other dignitaries of the Church of Rome, and all others exercising ecclesiastical jurisdiction from the Pope, as also all Jesuits and other regular priests to depart the Kingdom by a day limited, and that all Popish societies, convents, seminaries and Popish schools, should dissolve and separate themselves under the penalties therein mentioned. All persons were forbid to harbour them, and all magistrates commanded to inquire, punish or certify the disobedience therein ; and that persons so commanded to leave the Kingdom might not pretend want of convenience for transportation.

6 November 1678†. Another proclamation issued, requiring all owners and masters of ships bound to parts beyond the sea to set up notice in writing in the most public places of the time of their departure ; and they were required to take on board all such ecclesiastics as should desire to go with them, and the officers of the customs were commanded to stop all ships that did not give such notice of their departure.

2 November 1678‡. Another proclamation issued, commanding that no Papist in the Kingdom should thenceforth presume to ride with, carry, buy, keep or use any arms whatsoever without licence ; that within twenty days after the date thereof or seven days after the receipt of such arms they were required to deliver them up to certain of the most noted Protestants for that purpose named in the several counties, who were to take such arms and give receipts for what they took ; that the Justices of the Peace and the officers of the army should after the time expired search for and seize the arms of unlicensed persons, or if they found more arms than were reported with those that had licence they were to bind the delinquents over ; and all merchants and other retailers of powder were required to send in an account of their stores, if the same exceed above one pound, and of any powder which they might afterwards receive.

* This Proclamation is printed in full in Report on the Ormonde MSS., First Series, Vol. 2, pp. 350-352.

† Printed in full *ibid.*, pp. 355-6.

‡ Printed in full *ibid.*, pages 352-5.

20 November 1678.* Another proclamation issued forbidding Papists to come into the Castle of Dublin, or into any fort or citadel of that Kingdom; appointing also that the fairs and weekly markets of certain places, viz., Drogheda, Wexford, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Youghal, and Galway to be thenceforth kept without the walls of the said garrisons, and that Papists be not suffered to continue or reside in the said towns, or in any towns or corporations where garrisons were kept unless they had for the greatest part of twelve months past inhabited in such town. And that no person of the Papist religion anyways armed be suffered to come into the said fairs or markets; and also strictly requiring all Papists to forbear any unreasonable or night meetings, or in great or unusual numbers in any part of the Kingdom; and commanding all officers civil or military to be careful to prevent and dissolve all such meetings, to commit the principal offenders to prison till they find good security to answer the same at the next Sessions; and to return an account of their proceeding therein, with the names of such as occasioned or countenanced the same, to the Council Board.

20 November 1678† Another proclamation issued the same day promising a reward of 10*l.* for every commissioned officer, 5*l.* for every trooper and 40/- for every foot soldier to such as should discover any of them to have been perverted to the Romish religion, or heard mass who had formerly taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy; and the like to the discoverer of any that should afterwards be perverted. Besides that it was a rule begun in the present Lord Lieutenant's first government after the King's Restoration, and ever since continued, that the Muster-Master should check the pay of every officer and soldier of the Army who does not produce certificates from the Bishop or Minister of the place of his having received the Sacrament, according to the Church of England, twice every year.

2 December 1678. That being informed that several of the titular bishops and regular clergy had not obeyed the proclamation of the 16th October last for their departure, there issued a circular letter from the Lord Lieutenant and Council, whereby all Justices of the Peace are commanded to make diligent search after them, to commit them to prison, and to return the names of their receivers and harbourers that they might be proceeded against according to law.

12 December 1678‡ Another proclamation issued highly resenting the slackness of the Justices etc. in executing the late proclamation for searching after and seizing of

* Printed in full in Vol. ii., First Series, pp. 356-7.

† Printed in full in *ibid.*, p. 356.

‡ Printed in full in *ibid.*, pp. 357-9.

arms, requiring therefore a further search, and proposing a method for preventing of forged licences, and to look upon all that should be remiss in their duties as contemnors of the King's authority and proceeded against as abettors of those who disturb the peace.

13 December 1678* Another proclamation issued taking notice of a letter scattered in the streets of Dublin Lieutenant, promising protection and 200*l.* reward to the intimating a conspiracy against the life of the Lord discoverer. And it afterwards appeared that one Jephson, a young man perverted from his religion by some Irish priests; his abettors therein were taken and put into custody and the examinations committed to the Council and from thence sent to the House of Lords.

There were two great questions among others under serious debate of the Lord Lieutenant and Council from whence much ill grounded reflection hath arisen. The one about securing the principal heads of the most considerable clans or families of the Irish who have lost their estates; some supposing that it might conduce to the safety of the English if such heads were in restraint,† and that their fellows would not then presume or adventure to rush into rebellion. But upon serious consideration it was thought that such a proceeding might rather quicken a rebellion than prevent it; for the numerous followers who depend only upon their master's interest and authority for the support of themselves and families, being angered or affrighted at the ill-usage of their principals, and being loosened from all dependencies, might rather put themselves upon some unlawful way of living by turning Tories than entrust themselves to the pleasure of the Government; and in the quality of Tories they would be equally mischievous, and especially to the English dispersed in their remote dwellings, as a small rebellion. Besides this further reason did dissuade the taking up of their chief men as hostages: for if their followers were but few they would not do the English much hurt as they are; but if strong and numerous it would be easily in their power to surprise so many English gentlemen living remote and scattered in the country as would soon redeem such hostages, and thereby render all the charge and care of such an undertaking fruitless and only sure to breed ill blood. So that the Lord Lieutenant hath in some nature steered a different course by showing civility and giving good words to such of the heads of the Irish as come near him, whereby he finds out early what is doing among their dependants, and hath observed this method of obviating dangers more easy than either by rigour to compel them and their followers to live always in conjunction, and to talk of their

* Given in full in Vol. ii., First Series, p. 359.

† See the Earl of Orrery's letter to Ormond, dated 28 Feb., 1678-9 (Vol. iv., p. 330) and Primate Boyle's letter to Lord Orrery, dated Mar. 8, 1678-9 (Vol. iv., p. 352).

misfortunes, or by imprisonment of so many of the nobility of a kingdom without crimes objected or commands from thence, incur the censure of arbitrary proceedings which are neither safe nor fit for him to bear.

Another point that hath been under consideration before the Lord Lieutenant and Council was a proposal for draining the Corporations (especially those that were garrisoned) from the number of Irish Papists that live among them, in order to prevent any surprise or private conspiracy. But when it was reflected on that notwithstanding the general orders and proclamations that have from time to time been issued from the Government for the expulsion of Irish inhabitants and servants from the towns and garrisons, and that very few in respect of the numbers complained of were licensed to return, it was manifest that it was the English themselves who did in most places receive them in again for their own advantage not knowing well how to live without them. They wanted servants, and tenants and tradesmen, for of such are the numbers in the towns constituted, and the Irish Papists supplied with such; and the English did not conceive this sort of people to be so dangerous as beneficial unto them. So that the Lord Lieutenant and Council do only forbear their expulsion in whole or in part but for conveniency and gratification of the English. However it is certain there can never be a true remedy herein as to the security and improvement of that kingdom, unless by a large accession of English and Protestants there. And until that shall happen all other trials upon these sort of Irish will be in a manner but to lay some towns and very much of the land of the Protestants quite waste and untenanted. And yet it so falls out that many on this side, not considering the disposition of the Irish to the English, nor the difference of the laws there as to capital and pecuniary mulcts from what they are in England, do think many things are defective because they are not there executed as they are and may be executed in this kingdom. Upon these and other reasons of weight the two propositions before mentioned were thought impracticable. But the principal and present security of that kingdom consisting in the balancing the numbers of Irish with a superiority of strength and leaving them naked and the English in arms, the Lord Lieutenant and Council did think fit to receive the Commission of Array, so that the militia of that kingdom hath been raised in all parts, and is now found in a better condition than ever it was known to be. And to supply the defect of arms for such militia there were not only appointed some merchants as public undertakers to bring in arms from abroad, but withal, not wholly to depend upon their performances, the Lord Lieutenant procured a supply out of His Majesty's stores here of powder and arms to the

value of 13,000*l.*, which are now actually landed in Ireland, and for payment of which he himself stands engaged to the office of Ordnance here, until a Parliament do meet in Ireland to make provision for things of this importance. But surely to have proceeded with any degree of precipitation while the English were so unfurnished had not been very prudential.

As to His Majesty's forces in that kingdom, they are well disciplined and well paid. And it hath pleased His Majesty lately to send over a reinforcement of about 1200 men ; and the army is [so] distributed as that the cities (which are the garrisons of that kingdom) are secured as well as it is possible for the proportion of such a militia and such an army to make them.

There is all the discountenance given to Mass-houses in all places which the laws of that kingdom will bear. Nor is there licence for arms given to any but such as need them, and for no more than is necessary for their security against Tories in their remote and scattered habitations, and for whose loyalty and peaceable behaviour the Lord Lieutenant is not first sufficiently certified by some Protestant of note.

The forts are in as good a condition as the stores and the revenue of that kingdom will allow, and perhaps somewhat better. But it is manifest much more is needful in every kind in case of foreign attempts. And therefore seeing the charge of the Government and the income of the revenue are so nearly balanced by a settled establishment that it is not in the power of the Lord Lieutenant to alter the same, and that no money can be raised from the subject but by Act of Parliament, therefore the Lord Lieutenant hath been long endeavouring to have a Parliament called, and to that end several bills were transmitted the last summer by the Lord Lieutenant and now remain at the Council Board here, together with a large representation of the state of accounts depending with the Lord Ranelagh and his partners, who were late Undertakers for the Revenue of that kingdom. And until there be leisure (which since the discovery of this horrid Plot there scarce hath been) to send back those things with the mature consideration they deserve, there is no visible means left for the raising and augmenting the public revenue to such a proportion as may put that kingdom into a sufficient posture of defence as to army, fortifications and stores in case of any powerful invasion. But for the present all things are there in full peace and quietness. And for further account of the present state of that kingdom, and for what hath been done in further reason of the particulars here mentioned, or of any other thing which may have been left undone, there is no doubt but full satisfaction will be given by the Lord Lieutenant and Council when such particular inquiries and demands are made as shall be thought convenient,

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 1.—In my last I gave you an account of my being commanded by the Lords to inform them of the state of Ireland; wherein I obeyed them, giving them those public orders which you issued for the security of religion and the English interest: a copy whereof I here send, in which Sir Robert Southwell showed that concern for you which he ever does in things relating to you or yours. They now are upon making acts here for the governing of Ireland. By the journals you will see their proceedings, which are no ways pleasing to the King. I find great animosities are against my Lord Chancellor: I hope they will do nothing hastily against him. The motion concerning Colonel Fitzpatrick was very quick and impossible to prevent. My Lord of Anglesey showed me a paper of my Lord of Tyrone's complaining much of the hard usage he has had. I will endeavour to send you a copy of it. I wish your Secretary had informed me, that I might have known what to say, and that he would upon the like occasions give me speedy information of things. I have not made any hasty steps or done anything without advice of your and my friends.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND

1679, April 1, St. James's Square.—I need not trouble your Grace with an account of what passed yesterday in the Lords' House upon occasion of the narrative which my Lord Ossory thought fit to give in of what had been done since the discovery of the Plot for the security of that kingdom. How that their lordships have ordered that your Grace should be further desired to prohibit Colonel Fitzpatrick to come within twenty miles of your Court, and all other Papists without distinction from coming to Court; that a Bill should be prepared to disable Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament, according to the example of what has passed here; and that those of that religion should not be permitted to live in maritime towns of note which are to be more particularly enumerated: these and other things of this kind which have passed, your Grace will no doubt have an exact account of from my Lord of Ossory himself. But what would be of great service to the country, when so many inhabitants are like to be removed from so many places of trade, were the providing a supply of industrious hands. And in order to that, having acquainted Mr. Brisban with the opinion your Grace was pleased to honour me with, in answer to the queries I humbly prepared from him for soliciting the transplanting some French Protestants thither, I have a return from him to this purpose, that he conceives it impracticable for a multitude to agree among themselves in any such resolution, and in deputing any persons from them

to treat upon terms; and that if that difficulty could be overcome, the execution of such a design would meet with invincible opposition there from public authority. That he therefore desires to know what one may upon good grounds promise to single persons and families, as, for example, what security for religion, facility of naturalisation, exemption from foreign duties, privileges in exercising trades in Corporations, equality of justice etc. What cannot be effected at once by any common agreement at first, may in some time be obtained thus by a multitude of particulars, and the experience of a few will quickly invite many others. The things he desires to see resolved in seem to me chiefly to terminate in the means of being naturalised, and the permission of following manual trades. There is a law that admits strangers into Corporations for 20/-; but how far that extends, whether only to the King's natural subjects, or further, I cannot tell. If your Grace thinks it fit that upon these points of law I might receive the opinion of one of the King's Counsel to be communicated to him, the constitution of things at present abroad seem to promise some good effects of it.

CAPTAIN JOHN ST. LEGER to HENRY GASCOIGNE.*

1679, April 1. London.—Upon a mistake, my Lord of Ossory sharply replied to my Lord Shaftesbury yesterday†, and as I heard this day from my Lord Shaftesbury's own mouth, and he protested to me, 'twas a misapprehension of my Lord Ossory's, for he did not mean His Grace, nor that the reflection was intended to touch the Duke; and being pressed to explain whom he meant he declared that it was Colonel Fitzpatrick, and he told me he called him a single person which could not be understood to be the Duke. and I believe it was not.

The Bill of Attainder was carried this day to the House of Lords, and this day the Parliament voted all the forces in England illegal, nor is there any exception of the Guards. 'Tis thought this will not be very welcome to many of the Lords; they go on some say with too much heat; but I hope in a little time there will be a perfect understanding between both Houses. As yet they do not differ.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, April 1, Whitehall.—This post will bring your Grace the letters for the successive promotions occasioned by the death of my Lord Chief Justice Povey. They are in the fashion I apprehended they would be after my second discourse with His Majesty about your Grace's letter; for at first he seemed inclined, if not resolved, for Sir William

* Secretary to the Duke of Ormond.

† See Carte's *Life of Ormond*, Vol. ii., App. p. 90.

Davy. But some obligation of promise he had made for one in the lowest rank of the preferred made him enter upon new considerations, and at last ended in the resolutions I send you.

My Lord of Ossory will acquaint your Grace with the particulars that passed yesterday and to-day in their House, and particularly concerning Ireland, and I cannot yet be well enough with our House to prognostic whether they will mend, but at present it looketh very uncomfortable, though there are that think it will mend. But whether they are too sanguine or I too melancholy I know not. Only I can say we have made a shift to spoil a good Parliament, but whether we have the art to make a good one is what I doubt. The General Peace is on all hands believed nigh making, the F.K. [French King] will then be at leisure to employ his thoughts I fear more upon us than we shall have reason to thank him for. For whether it be the number of our diseases, or that of our remedies (which we pretend to employ all at a time) that will destroy us, I know not. But I do truly think the latter as likely as the first.

Our new Commissioners pretend to great diligence and integrity, and they have need of both to do much upon their stock, they finding but 27s. and 3d. in the Treasury (besides appropriated money) at their entrance.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT and COUNCIL to HENRY
COVENTRY, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY of STATE.

1679, April 5. Dublin.—As we did immediately after the arrival of me the Lieutenant hither apply ourselves among other things to look into the state of His Majesty's revenue, and by letters both from myself apart and from this Board unto you and to the late Lord Treasurer directed did send over early accounts of our proceedings therein and of the defects which we observed to be prejudicial to the carrying on of His Majesty's necessary affairs, and which for want of a sufficient fund were not able to be remedied; so, as soon as we received advice of the Plot, we did dispose our thoughts in the best manner we could for securing His Majesty's Government in this kingdom from the dangers thereby threatened against it: And therefore we did then and have since held frequent councils upon that subject, where we did not only put into execution the several particulars which by orders from that side we were required to do, but have also acted divers things besides which we conceived necessary to be done in such a conjuncture: And to the end His Majesty may be satisfied what steps we have made for the furthering the said service and so have them before him to make such supplements to them as in his royal judgment may be thought proper and practicable for the future security of this his Kingdom, we have here enclosed to you for that purpose

distinct particulars of our said proceedings which we desire you humbly to offer to His Majesty's consideration: And remain from the Council Chamber in Dublin the 5th day of April 1679

Your very assured loving friends,

ORMOND.

Michael Armach, C., Jo. Dublin, Arran, Blessinton, Granard, Lanesborough, Hen. Midensis, Rob. Fitzgerald, Ca. Dillon, Chas. Meredith, Jon. Davys, Ol. St. George, Geo. Rawdon, H. Ingoldsby, Wm. fflower, Tho. Newcomen.
[Encloses the narrative next printed.]

MEMORANDUM of the IRISH PRIVY COUNCIL.

A Narrative of the Proceedings of the Lord Lieutenant and Council in Ireland since the intimation to them from His Majesty of the Discovery of the Plot in England.

By order of His Majesty in Council dated this 30th of September 1678, which was received here the 7th of October last, the Lord Lieutenant was in particular to use effectual means to compel all the titular bishops and other dignitaries of the Church of Rome to depart the kingdom with all possible speed, and to cause Peter Talbot, titular Archbishop of Dublin, to be seized and taken into custody, and in general to provide such speedy remedies for the obstruction of those evils informed of as should be thought fit; upon receipt of which order Peter Talbot was immediately seized by direction of the Lord Lieutenant and committed to the Castle of Dublin, where he still remains and was several times examined.

On the 14th of October 1678, a proclamation issued from the Lord Lieutenant commanding all officers and soldiers of the Army to repair to their respective garrisons, there to remain and not absent themselves without particular and express licence from the Lord Lieutenant.

On the 16th of October 1678 a proclamation issued from the Board, commanding all titular Popish Archbishops, Bishops, Vicars General, Abbots, and other dignitaries of the Church of Rome, and all others exercising ecclesiastical jurisdiction by authority from the Pope or see of Rome, and all Jesuits and other regular priests, to depart the kingdom by the 20th of November next, and that proclamation did also require that all popish societies, convents, seminaries, friaries, nunneries and popish schools should be forthwith dissolved and thenceforth utterly suppressed, and on the 6th of November another proclamation requiring all owners and masters of ships bound for foreign parts to receive the said popish clergy on board and transport them accordingly.

On the 19th of October 1678 letters were sent from the Board to Mr. Secretary Coventry giving an account of the seizing of Peter Talbot and of the issuing of the aforesaid

first proclamation, with which letters were sent copies of the several examinations of Peter Talbot and other persons, and a printed copy of the said proclamation. And on the 23rd of October another letter was sent to Mr. Secretary Coventry relating to Peter Talbot.

On the 2nd of November 1678 a proclamation issued commanding that no persons of the Popish religion in this kingdom should ride with, carry, buy, use, or keep in their houses any arms without licence, and within twenty days after that date to bring in all their arms to particular persons named therein to be sent by them to His Majesty's stores; and after the expiration of the said twenty days all justices of peace were to search for, seize and secure such arms as should not be brought in, and to bind over the offenders to the next assizes or sessions of the county to be there prosecuted for their offence. And the said proclamation required all persons of the Popish religion, and all merchants, shopkeepers and retailers, as well Protestants as Popish, within twenty days to make return of the quantities of gunpowder in their possession; in pursuance of which proclamation several returns have been made of seizing of arms, and some few of gunpowder in the hands of some merchants and others.

The Lord Lieutenant having notice of one William Ryan to be Superior of the Jesuits in this kingdom, thought fit to have him secured and examined and his papers seized, which accordingly was done by Captain Robert Fitzgerald, a member of this Board, in pursuance of several letters from the Board of the 5th and 8th of November 1678, and the said Ryan was brought up with a guard and committed to the Castle. On the 5th of November letters were sent from the Board to Mr. Secretary Coventry giving an account of the proceedings against Ryan and one Richard Bourke, another Jesuit, with the examinations of the said Ryan and Bourke, in which mention was made of one thousand pounds given by one Hughes, a Jesuit, to a College of Jesuits at Poitiers in France, which thousand pounds was said to be lodged in the hands of Daniel Arthur. And there appearing nothing against Ryan in reference to the Plot he was by order of the Board dated the 26th of February 1678 put aboard a ship bound from the port of Dublin to some foreign parts, in order to his transportation, according to the proclamation for that purpose.

On the 12th of November 1678, letters were received from His Majesty, dated the 5th of November 1678, for apprehending of Colonel Richard Talbot, the Lord Viscount Mountgarret's eldest son, and the Viscount himself, and one John Peppard, a Colonel, and causing them to be examined upon the points mentioned in the said letter. Colonel Talbot and Richard Butler, Esquire, the Viscount's eldest son, were accordingly apprehended and examined and continue

prisoners in His Majesty's Castle of Dublin. On the 22nd of November 1678 by letter from the Board an accompt of the proceedings against them was sent to Mr. Secretary Coventry, and giving him notice that the said Viscount Mountgarret was not in a condition of health to be removed from his habitation, being above eighty years of age and bedrid, and no such person as the said Colonel Peppard was to be found or heard of in this kingdom though diligent inquiry was made for him.

On the 28th of January and 11th of March 1678 letters were sent from the Board to the Commissioners of Array in the several counties of the kingdom for making return of the state of the Militia and of the men and the condition of their arms, and returns were made accordingly. On the 16th of November 1678 other letters issued from the Board to the said Commissioners of Array in the several counties to quicken the officers of the said troops and companies of the militia to be in readiness and good posture for the safety and security of the country, and that they should appoint particular places of rendezvous for the militia if there should be any sudden occasion, and to consider and propose by what ways and means the militia may be so ordered as to be rendered useful upon any occasion for the security of the country.

At a meeting in Council the Lord Lieutenant acquainted the Board that what directions came out of England concerning Peter Talbot, Colonel Talbot, and Lord Mountgarret's son, and commanding the Popish clergy out of the kingdom, were observed and put in execution, and accompt thereof given to Mr. Secretary Coventry. And for the general direction for obstructing of the evil informed of and mentioned in the aforesaid order from His Majesty and the Lords of the Council, order had been given for disarming of the Papists and settling the militia and securing the garrisons, and desired the advice of the Board what was further to be done. And thereupon several matters were debated concerning the turning all Papists out of corporate towns, and securing persons who might be suspected to be dangerous. And it being considered that if all Papists were prohibited coming to the towns there would be no markets, and the inhabitants and garrisons would be in danger of want of necessary provisions; and if leading men or suspected dangerous persons were taken up, how and where they should be safely kept or maintained; upon the whole debate it was at last unanimously resolved that at present nothing should be done in that matter.

On the 20th of November 1678 a proclamation issued that none of the Popish religion or so reputed should come into the Castle of Dublin or any other of His Majesty's forts or citadels without special order from the Lord Lieutenant, and for keeping markets and fairs without the walls of

Drogheda, Wexford, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Youghal and Galway, and that no persons of the Popish religion should be suffered to reside in the said towns or any other of the Corporations, who had not for the greatest part of twelve months past inhabited therein, nor to come to any fair or market with swords, pistols, or any other weapon or fire arms, and to forbear meeting by day or night in any great or unusual numbers.

On the 20th of December 1678 letters issued from the Board to the Sheriffs of the several counties to be communicated to the Justices of Peace, taking notice of their neglect in not apprehending such of the Popish regular clergy as did not transport themselves according to the proclamation, and therefore requiring them to be more diligent and to apprehend such clergy, and not only to return their names but also the names of their receivers, relievers and harbourers, that they may be proceeded against for their contempt of the proclamation.

On the 9th of December 1678 letters issued from the Board to the Commissioners of Array in the several counties of the kingdom with new commissions and instructions, many of the former Commissioners being dead or removed out of the country, the said letters requiring that all persons of what state, degree, dignity or condition soever be equally charged with furnishing men and arms and supporting them on the muster day, and all persons arrayed to take the oath of supremacy.

On the 12th of December 1678 a proclamation issued requiring all Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and officers of the Army to be more diligent in putting in execution the proclamation of the second of November for seizing of arms, and to return the names of the persons licensed and of their servants who are licensed to carry arms and prosecuting all persons at the Assizes or Quarter Sessions who have not delivered in their arms according to the said proclamation.

On the 13th of December 1678 a proclamation issued taking notice of an intended conspiracy against the life of the Lord Lieutenant, and giving a reward of 200*l.* to such persons as shall make discovery thereof.

On the 18th of December 1678 letters were sent from the Board to Mr. Secretary Coventry concerning the conspiracy against the Lord Lieutenant, with several examinations relating thereunto, and on the 9th of February 1678 letters were received from the Lords of the Council, dated the 31st of January 1678, concerning the conspiracy against the Lord Lieutenant, with the examination of Stephen Dugdale enclosed ; and in answer thereunto letters were sent to the Lords of the Council from the Board, dated the 29th of March 1679, concerning Owen Byrne and the manner of proceeding against him concerning the said conspiracy. Within the time

aforesaid several letters were sent to Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, officers of the Army and others, concerning the militia, the Popish clergy, the seizing of arms, in answer to their letters to the Board.

It being observed by several returns from the Commissioners of Array that many arms are wanting in the troops and companies of the militia and that if they could be furnished they would pay for them, the Lord Lieutenant made application into England to have arms and ammunition sent thence ; and some merchants in this kingdom, viz., John Rogerson and John Castleton of Dublin and George Macartney of Belfast did propose to bring in several quantities of arms and ammunition, and to place the same into His Majesty's stores, or to sell or dispose of them in such manner as the Lord Lieutenant and Council should appoint at reasonable rates, and accordingly licences were signed for them, and the said Macartney took out his licence ; but the officers of the Ordnance in Ireland proposing to bring arms and ammunition out of his Majesty's magazines in the Tower of London, and to furnish the kingdom with such proportions as the Lord Lieutenant should think fit at as reasonable rates as any others would do for as good serviceable arms, the other two licences were stayed, not having been called for by the said Rogerson or Castleton before the said proposals of the said officers of the Ordnance.

On the 3rd of March 1678 letters from the Board issued to the Commissioners of Array in the several counties giving them notice of the expectation of the sudden arrival of arms and ammunition out of England, and that they should certify to the Board the quantity and the quality of the arms they would have occasion to buy for the use of the militia and to have the money ready to be paid upon delivery of the arms. On the 11th of March 1678 letters were sent to several persons at Galway and Boffin to be diligent in searching and seizing on any arms should be brought in there, intimation being given that arms were at Brest put on board two fly-boats belonging to Galway and of which the masters were Papists. And directions were given to the Farmers of the Revenue to write to the officers of the several ports in the kingdom to be very diligent in searching for and securing all arms and ammunition which should be brought into the kingdom.

On the 26th of March 1679 a proclamation issued against Tories and robbers, and, for the reasons therein expressed, for seizing their nearest relations, that is to say the wives, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters of such of them as shall be out upon their keeping, that is not amenable to law, and committing them to close prison until such Tory shall be killed or taken, and also for seizing and committing the respective Popish pretended parish priests and transporting them beyond seas, unless within fourteen days after

any robbery, burglary or murder committed within the said parishes the persons who are guilty shall be killed or taken, or discovery made within that time, or that such offenders may be apprehended and brought to justice.

On the 26th of March 1679 a proclamation issued for reward to such persons as shall apprehend any of the Popish regular clergy who have not transported themselves according to the former proclamation (viz.) for every titular archbishop or bishop, and every Jesuit, ten pounds, and for every other person commanded by the said proclamation to depart, five pounds.

On the 31st of March 1679, an order of the Lord Lieutenant and Council was sent to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of Dublin for dissolving and dispersing the meetings in several mass-houses in the city and suburbs of Dublin, and not to permit any Popish services to be celebrated in the said houses or other public places within the said city or suburbs, and to apprehend and commit to prison such as shall offend until they shall find security to answer at the Quarter Sessions.

Letters sent from the said Board in order to the removing all Papist inhabitants out of Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Clonmel and Drogheda, except some few trading merchants, artificers and others necessary for the said towns and garrisons, the same being the principal in the kingdom, where the Papists are most numerous.

Letters sent from the Board to the chief magistrates of the several Corporations of Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Youghal, Clonmel, Galway, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Kinsale, Athlone and Ross for suppressing the assemblies of the Papists, and prohibiting the celebration of their Popish services within and without the walls of the said Corporations.

Signed

ORMOND.

Mich. Armach, C., Jo. Dublin, Arran, Blessinton, Granard, Lanesborough, Hen. Midensis, Rob. Fitzgerald, Ca. Dillon, Char. Meredith, Jon. Davys, Ol. St. George, H. Ingoldsby, Geo. Rawdon, Wm. Flower.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 5, London.—By the Journals of our House you will be informed how they proceed in the Irish affairs. I wish I had notice what numbers of Popish families are in the town of Dublin, as well as in other seaports of the kingdom. One Mansel, that was cashiered, I find very great with my Lord of Shaftesbury who employs all manner of creatures to find him matter of complaint. I think it were not amiss if you sent me the reasons for the proceedings against him*, as all things of this nature, that I may know what to answer when objections are made. If I thought it necessary to tell you

* For the proceedings against Mansel, see Vol. iv., pp. 113, 121, 125, etc.

the many reports about the town, I would not spare my pains, though they would prove voluminous. But of all things of moment, you may be sure I will not omit giving you information.

ORMOND TO CAPTAIN GEORGE MATHEW.

1679, April 5. Dublin.—My son Ossory upon my Lord of Shaftesbury's speech, either undertook or was required to bring in some account of the proceedings in Ireland for the safety of this kingdom since the Plot. But I rather think it was his voluntary offer than any injunction, and that he was induced to do it out of a belief that he had authentic instances to give of my care, such as would satisfy the House. If it was voluntary he was too forward, and might have expected my directions; and if it was required, he might well have desired time to inform me of the pleasure of the House, and desired that I being most concerned might have some knowledge of what was expected from me, and have time to prepare and transmit it to them; and this I hope he will desire in the conclusion of anything he shall have brought in to stay their stomachs. It is written by some that it is projected that the Government of this kingdom should be put into Commission, as I think it was in Cromwell's time and at the King's first coming in. I should not like it as to the public, because it looks too like a Commonwealth; but as to my particular I had rather give up the sword to many than to one, and had rather stay here under such a Commission than under any one man like now to be sent. My Lord of Essex is where he would be, first in the Commission for the Treasury, which is a good step to his being Treasurer.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE TO ORMOND.

1679, April 5.—This begins Wednesday, 2nd. The Votes of that day herewith enclosed will show there doth need but little comment on them, nothing of moment being transmitted that day, that of most, relating to Irish cattle, being adjourned till Tuesday.

The Lords were long taken up about the Bill of Attainder of the Earl of Danby sent them up; whether it should be read the second time cost some debate, but much more whether it should after be committed or rejected. It is said that an Earl should say we have now shot one rook, but there are a whole flock that will still endanger devouring our corn; therefore I am for hanging them up to affright others, and that my Lord Northampton should reply he had a rookery which his predecessors had been very fond of, but on complaint that they devoured his neighbours' corn he gave consent for their destruction; but after the corn was devoured worse than before, for there was a little grub at the root that devoured

more than the rooks had done. But at last my Lord Culpeper proposed this expedient that the word Attainder might be left out, and so the Bill be committed; which was closed with, though it seemed a contradiction that there should be a Bill of Attainder without the word Attainder in it; but it being late they adjourned the debate till next day.

Thursday the 3rd. I must be a little the more elaborate about this, having lost the Votes of this day. The Commons began with a long-long bill brought in by Sir Thomas Clarges against Popery, of so prodigious a length that the very reading of it lost above an hour, and the reporting or summing of it up by the Speaker spent above half an hour more. It contained all the severities of all laws in force and all bills that were proposed last Parliament, with yet more penalties therein added. The length of the bill gave so great discouragement that no time was appointed for a second reading. But Sir Henry Capel chanced in the nick of time to surprise and amaze the House with an unusual motion that all the doors, as well those that lead to the Speaker's Chamber as that of the House might be immediately locked and the keys brought in, for that within that circumference was a person who ought to be secured. It was accordingly immediately put in practice; and one Mr. Reading, a lawyer that oft pleads before the Commons in cases of controverted elections was the man, who was got into the Speaker's Chamber to listen (as it seems he used to do) and observe the speeches and the speakers, especially on the occasion of this Popish Bill. But that was not his crime at this time. Mr. Bedloe accused him for having offered him great rewards to suborn his testimony on behalf of my Lord Powis, Lord Stafford, Lord Petre and some other gentlemen that are imprisoned on the account of the Plot. To make this out Mr. Bedloe is justified by Prince Rupert and my Lord of Essex that he above a month since acquainted them that Reading had begun such a treaty with him, but he besought their direction how he should behave himself in it; who encouraged his proceedings and promised if Mr. Reading designed to trepan him they would be his compurgators. He thereupon proceeds, and at the close of the agreement gets two credible witnesses, so concealed that they could hear and could not be seen; who gave this testimony, that Bedloe was to have 300*l.* per annum out of my Lord Stafford's estate at Thornbury in Gloucestershire, and sums of money from all others he should save; in order to do it, agreed on the very words he should say on the day of the trial, such as should not only not hurt them, but should also as to their particulars invalidate Oates his testimony also; all which he hath under Reading's own hand. But it is remarkable that Reading only treated for his clients, exposing all the rest, saying that he thought 'twas fit to sacrifice my Lord Arundel

and Lord Bellasis to assuage the fury of the people, as if those who were united in the crimes could be severed in the proofs. But he was delivered into the hands of the Committee of Secrecy. Next Mr. Treby, Chairman to the Committee of Secrecy, made a report of the heads of the charges of High Treason they were drawing up against the five Lords, and above forty more, some imprisoned and some not yet taken. I shall not mention them because I hope to send a copy of the charges at large; only one remarkable passage I shall add that the House, finding Sir George Wakeman left out of the calendar of the criminals, he had the honour to be added by a special order. Next they read a bill sent from the Lords to oblige each member hereafter, ere he sat in the Convocation, to take the same oaths and test as all members of either House do: and lastly read a bill for the regulation of future elections, and in both cases ordered a second reading.

The Lords spent the whole day, and yet rose late too, on the Earl of Danby's Bill of Attainder, and in Committee of the whole House, and almost licked it into the shape of their first Bill, only adding a clause that he should not be pardoned but by Act of Parliament. Which made my Lord Garrett declare, if not swear, he would not own a King if he had not power to pardon. I will relate one passage, because I would obviate reports. Mr. Bedloe's brother in a drunken quarrel at the *Palsgrave Head* tavern was run through the body by one Hayden who never saw him before in his life, and that without any declared quarrel to him. Bedloe was much the soberer, yet only hurt.

Friday, April 4. The Votes I have enclosed, and therefore need say the less. Only the Commons rather chose to graft upon the Lords' short bill than dock their own long one against Popery, and so having read it a second time committed it; with instructions to have a clause added to prevent all future intermarriages between any of the Royal family and Papists; that Mr. Brent mentioned in the Votes was a Papist who officiated in the Treasury Office, a very dexterous man in that employment, but a very dangerous Papist. His crime was employing some to tamper with Mr. Dugdale, particularly to sift what he had to say against my Lord Stafford. The conference there mentioned between the two Houses was managed on the Lords' part by my Lord Privy Seal, who first cajoled the Commons by telling them the Lords thought it more obliging and satisfactory to deliver the Bill and the amendments at a Conference than by messengers. The greatest alteration was that they made it only a conditional Bill of Attainder, if the Earl of Danby should be found in England after the 1st of May; otherwise only banishment with those penalties expressed in the first bill they sent down; that the King was a gracious sovereign and we happy that he was so; that he took delight to

pardon and that in compliance therewith they could not extend the punishment further ; that what was done was enough to secure their fears for the future. The Commons instead of complying adjourned the debate, and ordered the Address to His Majesty. The Lords rose early.

This day the Lords did very little, only one Sedway found them discourse, who told a story that being some three or four years since at Rome, Cardinal Howard with others expressing great hopes of the speedy establishing their religion in England, he argued its impossibility from the zeal of the Bishops. They answered that several of them were favourers of it, naming the Bishop of Ely, the Bishop of Gloucester, and the Bishop of Bath and Wells ; and that when he came over, having often waited on the Bishop of Ely, at last he acquainted him with his resolution of exchanging Popery for Protestantism, and that the Bishop should seem to discourage him, saying that his own was a better religion than it was generally believed to be, and, he being a scholar, advised him to read St. Augustine and other of the Fathers. But being asked whether he knew the Bishop, tremblingly answered he did. But being asked by my Lord Shaftesbury whether that was not he (this part was at the Committee who sits almost all morning on the Plot) said no, tho' it was. It will be I suppose thought fit to repair the Bishop and punish the informer, though some thought to make great matter out of it.

The Votes speak all I can say about the Commons : only it is said old fellow-falconer, Mr. Winwood, hath supplanted Sir John Ernley of his burgess-ship at Windsor. I find Mr. Reading this evening hath given but little satisfaction ; so that the Commons hath resolved on an address to be drawn against next Monday for a Commission of Oyer and Terminer to try Mr. Reading. I have enclosed my Lord Shaftesbury's speech in relation to Ireland and Scotland. I presume I need not send my Lord Ossory's answer. I have also sent the Articles of Attainder, and they will tell against whom they are calculated.

ORMOND to the EARL OF ESSEX.

1679, April 7, Dublin.—I very really congratulate His Majesty's choice of your lordship to serve him in the Treasury, and do not think there is any man that wishes well to the Crown and the kingdoms belonging to it that is not of my mind. It may be too early to give your lordship the trouble of calling for any return to those despatches sent from hence to the Privy Council there, and to Mr. Secretary Coventry, concerning the revenue of this kingdom, divers of which were in the late Lord Treasurer's hands. Those which related to the Commission by which the Commissioners and Farmers now act will I think be henceforth useless, Mr. Ryder and his officers having come to an agreement ; so that what is

now to be taken care of in that matter is only that the King's security may not be lessened by that accord. The last despatch from the Council here concerning the Lord Ranelagh's accounts was put into my Lord Treasurer's hands. If it is not in the Treasury Office Sir Cyril Wyche can give you a copy of it, whilst an authentic duplicate is in preparation here. I need not tell you how much the King's service in the satisfaction of his Army and other subjects depends upon a fair conclusion of these accounts.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, April 7, Dublin.—The paper you gave in to the Lords' House could not be composed to more advantage, nor anything added to it but what has been lately done, of which Mr. Secretary Coventry has an account from me and the Council, and will let you have a copy if you desire it, as you should. I saw it from Jack St. Leger and from another hand that my Lord Shaftesbury professes he had no intention to reflect on me in what he said concerning Ireland, which if the copy of his speech which I have seen be true can hardly be believed. Yet if he has a mind it should be believed, I know not at this distance why he may not be gratified in it. My Lord Longford says that upon this occasion some lords made favourable mention of me, and it is given out here that the Bishop of Rochester said something in my defence. I would be glad to know to whom I have any such obligation, that I may own it to them. I have not yet the copy of the information given upon oath against my Lord Tyrone, but you shall have it by the next post; and then it will appear to my Lord Privy Seal that I could not have proceeded otherwise than I did.

ORMOND to the EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1679, April 7, Dublin.—I have received His Majesty's commands concerning Colonel John Fitz Patrick's returning to his own home and keeping himself at 20 miles' distance from me unless I happen to come within that space of his house; and then I immediately sent for him and laid His Majesty's commands upon him, to which he most humbly submits and promises to yield punctual obedience, which if he should not perform I shall not fail to inform His Majesty of it. But he hopes it will not be interpreted a breach of the injunction laid upon him if (having no house of his own in his possession fit for a gentleman to reside in) he stays with some of his relatives till he can fit a house on to his own estate, keeping still at the distance required from Dublin.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 8, London.—I received your letter of the last of March and doubt not but by this time you have been

informed and I hope satisfied that the information I gave the House was done with care as to you and upon sufficient grounds. You will also see that you were no more concerned to justify it further than the recital of some acts of Council which satisfy all but those that are resolved not to hear or allow of reason. I was told Captain Fitzgerald did intend to desire my assistance toward getting him made Commissary-General of the Horse, and I believe to-day my Lord Ranelagh writ to him to that purpose, but he never spoke of it himself to me, at least to my remembrance. Sir Theophilus Jones made the same address to me by my Lord Granard. My answer was, and I intend the same for the future, that I would not meddle in a thing of that importance without your knowledge and approbation. I wish some very good officer had that command, to stop the pretensions of those who can plead nothing for it but quality. Considering the general officers of your army I am afraid you would have but little assistance from most of them if you were in action.

I have received two proclamations by the last post, one concerning Tories and the other allowing money to search or bring in either Bishops or regulars. I shall make the best use of I can of them when occasion offers. We have been morning and evening sitting at the House. I have not anything of moment now to impart unto you. My Lord of Essex's being one of the Treasury was several times diversely resolved, and when I writ it was in the negative.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, April 8, Whitehall.—Your Grace's of the 31 March I have received and at the same time one from Mr. Attorney, earnestly deprecating the promotion intended by the letter. I have likewise showed the King yours relating to Sir W. Davys* and though it may have set him right in His Majesty's opinion, yet he is not inclined to promote him at this time. Neither will he force Mr. Attorney† so much against his will. The promise that I mentioned in my last that His Majesty was put in mind of was for Mr. Keating,‡ and my Lord Feversham is the person that minded him of it. But yet His Majesty thinketh it too sudden a leap from the Mr. Attorney to be Lord Chief Justice; but thinketh that if Judge Reynolds§ were advanced to be Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Keatinge were made Judge in his place it would be

* Sir William Davys, Prime Serjeant 1675, became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland on the next vacancy in the office in 1680.

† Sir William Domville was appointed Attorney General at the Restoration, and held his office until removed by James II. in 1687.

‡ John Keatinge became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in succession to Chief Justice Povey, promoted to the King's Bench. He was removed by William III. in 1691.

§ Evidently Sir Richard Reynell is meant. He was at this time a Puisne Judge of the Common Pleas. He was made Lord Chief Justice by William III. in 1690.

generally satisfactory. But whether Mr. Keating would accept a puisne place is more than any can tell; so His Majesty will take no resolution till he hear again from your Grace, who can best judge of the matter. I have this day your letter with that for Sir N. Armorer's patent, which I shall get despatched by the next post. The business of the Bill of Attainder maketh no progress, and because of that, at least as is pretended, nothing else of public good moveth.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, April 8, London.—Your Grace's of March 31 I have received, greatly to the encouragement of my duty and diligence in my constant advertisements, acceptance being the greatest reward I can propose to myself. I confess for two reasons my pen flagged in registering the stings that waspish person endeavoured to stick into your Grace's conduct of Government. But the steel of a clear reputation so obviated them that they were ineffectual. I left the ungrateful reputation to others who he had less provoked and knew more. What else I know of moment I shall fully report. As yesterday my Lord Lovelace began in the Lords with a complaint against one Robert Hicks, a farrier and gamekeeper at Woodstock, having a vindictive woman's deposition (who had threatened to do him a mischief) that he said he hoped my Lord Treasurer would yet show as honest a face as those that stickled against him. None thought it worthy the bringing into that House; but when 'twas there overruled his being brought in custody to that bar by four votes. Then came up my Lord Russell from the Commons with their impeachment against the five Tower Lords, which was further referred to the Committee of Privileges (and they to sit that afternoon) to consider the method of proceeding in such cases, and to report them next morning to the House. Next one Sydway was brought to the bar, who had aspersed three reverend bishops with the scandal of Popery; but he was so far from making anything like truth appear against them that whereas he pretended he derived his knowledge of it from Cardinal Barberini and Cardinal Northfolk Howard some three or four years since at Rome, yet gave contrary accounts of both the Cardinals, and a very mistaken one of every part of Rome itself. Yet because he was called the King's evidence, and was ushered in by an eloquent Earl, it was carried but by five voices for his commitment. To close that day my Lord Essex made a self denying motion that he might have leave (it being so extraordinary a case, else it had been needless, everyone having an inherent liberty to offer what he should think fit) to bring in a Bill to inhibit all future Lord Treasurers or Commissioners of the Treasury to make directly or indirectly, by sale of under offices or otherwise, any other benefits or advantages than their mere salaries. This my Lord Shaftesbury diverted by proposing rather a Bill to

prevent any person being Lord Treasurer for the future ; it being of too great an importance and influence for any one subject : instancing in himself who (he pretends) once stood fair for that staff, in the misjudging eye of others tho' not in his own thoughts. At which time he saw such an unexpected reverencing behaviour at Whitehall towards him that he was amazed till my Lord Clifford (his worthy good friend) unriddled it to him. He inferred from the influence of this groundless supposition how much more the possession of that staff will operate, and concluded the unreasonableness of any one subject having it. However my Lord Essex was left to his discretion what bill of that nature to bring in, and so their Lordships adjourned. He added also that it might extend to the Lord Lieutenants of Ireland.

On the particular bills of the Commons that need it I shall paraphrase the best I can. John Blythe mentioned was a constable who refused to guard Mr. Reading after the Commons had committed him. The complaints against Sir John Robinson was that he had indulged the imprisoned Lords with unjustifiable liberty, as coming together when they ought not, nay even sometimes permitted to be out of the Tower ; all which he denying, the examination of the truth was referred to a Committee. But however he is not long to stay in, for my Lord Arlington is forthwith to be Lieutenant and Tom Cheekes to be his deputy. This report of Mr. Secretary Coventry's concerning Mr. Reading's letter to Mr. Chiffinch was ushered in by this story, which I think not fit to be omitted ; that Mr. Reading having baffled the Committee's expectation of his considerable confession after he himself had raised it, was committed close prisoner, and such great anathemas denounced against him, that his cunning, humorous wife found this stratagem to convey her counsel to him ; sending him two caps, one thick within a thin one, between both put a scrap of paper which advised him not to fool away his life by delaying his confession too long or making it too short. This the careful Serjeant at Arms found, but considering its useful contents returned it between the caps, and delivered them : whereupon he pressed for the allowance of pens, ink and paper, that he might (for the better method's sake) digest his evidence into writing, which being allowed him, in the foul shirt sent to his wife he conceals a letter to Mr. Chiffinch, wherein he pretends what great discoveries he could make, but desired that he might first whisper them into the King's ear ; who according to the Vote transmits all over to the Commons, who construed it firstly a great evidence of the King's favour to and confidence in them, for which they returned their humble thanks (your Grace's old acquaintance Colonel Birch greatly haranguing on his sacred Majesty's gracious goodness), and Mr. Secretary did write accordingly to the King's name to Mr. Reading.

The delay of the report concerning the army till Wednesday was occasioned because the day was far spent, and this day was designed for the debate concerning Irish cattle. What this new design of improving the militia will amount to I confess I cannot yet imagine, tho' many of the wisest I perceive are brimful of it. It is these amendments of most consequence that the Commons disagree with the Lords about in the Earl of Danby's bill. Yet the most violent of them conclude him not worthy of death, even my Lord Shaftesbury's Mr. Bennet himself owned as much, and that all he wished was that he was well rid of him by banishment, concluding him all this while doing mischief here; as that he was advising the King to sell Tangier for 600,000*l*. (how he came to fancy it, I know not) and Jamaica for so much, and then he would not need the Parliament giving any money. Whereupon my Lord Cavendish moved that Tangier being of so great importance to the trade of the nation might by Act of Parliament be annexed and fixed to the Imperial Crown of England, and that a Bill ought to be brought in to that purpose, which was ordered accordingly.

This day in the Lords' House, on the motion of the Lord Lovelace himself, the criminal Robert Hayes was released. Next the Committee of Privileges reported the terms and methods previous to the Lords' trial, as that the King ought to be addressed to make a Lord High Steward who was to be Speaker *pro tempore*. (Accordingly His Majesty has been addressed to, and has promised to commission one, but not yet named him). Then the Lords must be brought to the Bar, and there kneel; and after standing up hear their charge and answer the dismal question Guilty? or not Guilty? If the latter, the Commons must be ready by such a day to make good their charge. The Lords are ordered to be at the Bar tomorrow morning, so that in a short time the secrets of the Plot will be revealed. Next the Commons sent up their reasons to the Lords why they could not concur to their amendments; which the Lords immediately took into consideration, and after a long debate whether to adhere to their own amendments or concur with the Commons, a middle way was found out that the Lords should intercede at a Conference with the Commons. In order to this the Lords sent down to desire a Conference, whereupon both Houses sat this afternoon. The Lords finished their reasons, or rather permissive arguments to induce the Commons to decline that harsh word Attainder. I here enclose a copy of the Commons' reasons why they could not comply with the Lords, but those from the Lords must be wrapped up in my next letter, the Houses rising so very late. The Votes of the Commons I also enclose for the morning, but cannot hope for them of this night till tomorrow, nor can they signify anything when they come; for the Lords only had the report of their reasons made them, and approved of

them, and demanded a Conference when they delivered them, and so adjourned, as did the Commons also, as soon as the report of them was made. Only this afternoon the Commons sent up their first Bill to the Lords, save that of Attainder against the Earl of Danby; it is a kind of enlarging *Habeas Corpus*. The time hinders me. Pardon this hurry, my next shall endeavour to make amends.

HENRY COVENTRY TO ORMOND.

1679, April 8, Whitehall.—I write this to yourself to let you know the true state of affairs here. Never were the King's necessities greater, nor the confidence and complaisance of Parliament less. Every action and promotion of men is scanned with much rigour, I would I could always say with as much justice. I doubt not my Lord of Ossory hath acquainted you what has passed in the Lords' House concerning Ireland; and I have several advertisements there are intentions of bringing in complaints into our House. Their open complaints are against my Lord Chancellor, but you have your share by consequence. Amongst their complaints none is aggravated more, and that by men of consideration, than his endeavouring to engross the great charges of Church and State in his own family. They think Primate in the Church and Chancellor in the State to be too much in his own person. And if to this the prime place of judicature in the law be given to his son-in-law, the whole government of spirituals and temporals is his. So that the present advancement of Sir W. Davys would make that flame that already smokes, and it is the opinion of all your friends here it will be of great prejudice both to my Lord Primate and your Grace. And for this reason I told you in the enclosed note upon this subject some posts ago, I do not think the King in a disposition to agree to his promotion, though you should persist in it. But else I believe whoever you shall nominate will take place, though at present he approves of the two named in my letter. My Lord of Essex is not only Commissioner of the Treasury, but is of the Cabinet Council, and seemeth to be in very good grace.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1679, April 9, London.—Having now acquainted myself in some measure with my Lord James, I presume it may not be unreasonable for me to assure your Excellence that I find him sufficiently receptive of the improvements of knowledge, and persuasible to everything that is proposed to his advantage. As to Mr. Drelincourt, he seems to be a very sober, diligent and honest man; and tho' a little accident happened which has cast some blemish on his prudence, he will I doubt not approve himself not only faithful to, but also sufficient in his trust. When anything of moment occurs in reference to

my Lord James, I shall take the boldness to represent it, thinking it more eligible to fall under the charge of being impertinent than of being careless and negligent. I am now by a particular occasion drawn to town, where I find much more endeavour to prosecute private hatred and ambitions than to promote the public peace. And although the exigence of the nation require all our cares, we are at leisure to debate the administration of Ireland. Almighty God who has wrought miracles for our preservation hitherto, will I hope even against our merit and endeavours continue to preserve us, and continue your Excellence a blessing not only to the kingdom over which you preside, but this most distracted country: which is the earnest and daily prayer of your Excellence's, etc.

Postscript.—Whereas your Excellence mentions a desire which the Vice-Chancellor has expressed of being released from his employment, by the nomination of a successor; he is very early therein, it being not usual for a new Vice-Chancellor to enter on his office till Michaelmas. And I humbly conceive that since in this interval many accidents may intervene, it will not be advisable to nominate any person at so great a distance of time before the resignation is to take place.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 12, London.—I have nothing worth your knowledge which the journals and gazettes will not inform you. In the latter I am careful to have inserted those things done in Ireland in order to let the world see your care for preventing any mischief from the Irish. I perceive my Lord of Essex did value himself much upon his care in getting the young Lord of Clancarty to be educated in our religion, and my Lord of Shaftesbury pressed much to have an account of what minors were so bred up since that law passed which I think appoints that those children whose parents left them minors should be entrusted to those nearest akin that are Protestants, in order to their being brought up that way.

The porter's place of Somerset House being void, my Lady Dorset pretends it in her disposal as house-keeper. The right is in you. But I find the Queen has a mind to a fellow that now exercises the office. I imagine you will not dispute it with her, but I desire your directions as soon as may be.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, April 12, Dublin.—All I can write from hence is that yet the Regiment is not landed and that I fear some disorder is happened amongst them, or some misfortune, for that your mules that made the same or a longer voyage are come, and that in sixteen days from Rotterdam. There are but four of them, and I wish they may prove worth what they

will cost me with their trappings and all, of which they say you have the most useful parts, as trunks and hampers, fitted to the saddles at London.

There happened some disorder at and after the suppressing one of the mass-houses in this city. One of the Lord Mayor's officers struck a priest as he was kneeling at the altar in his ordinary clothes, but the officer being ignorant that other vestments are necessary to say mass in, thought he was then saying one, which provoked him to that rudeness to the priest. The blow provoked the priest to say that if Christ were Christ he would avenge the abuse, or words to that effect. In short that night when it was dark the officer was assaulted by four or five men, and much bruised and wounded, and we are by proclamation and reward endeavouring to find out the persons that did it. This account I give you of that affair because it may be otherwise represented by letters hence. Another business concerning one Newterfield, a Jesuit, is much misunderstood and repined here where the matter passed, and therefore may more easily there. But that passage will be at large sent drawn up by the Clerk of the Council. These things, as light as they are, may make noise there as everything does, and therefore I send accounts of them.

SIR STEPHEN FOX to ORMOND.

1679, April 12, Whitehall.—I acknowledge myself so much obliged to your Grace's favour in your generous concern for my being put out of my place that I think it my duty to acquaint your Grace of my being restored to it and His Majesty's countenance again. And without presumption I do believe I shall never be out of it as long as I live for any undutiful action or thought; which assurance I give your Grace and my most humble thanks for your great goodness to me, wishing it was in my power to show my affectionate zeal for your Grace's service.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1679, April 12. St. James's Square.—I have used all the industry that can be, and cannot yet find any hopes of recovering those two papers—the state of the Revenue and your letter from the Council. Mr. Bertie tells me he will write to my Lord Danby about them; but what success that may have with a man under his circumstances, and in what time they may be retrieved, if at all, is uncertain, and how soon there may be use of them none can tell. So that it were certainly advisable (as your Grace I perceive by yours was thinking) that duplicates were sent over to be ready when wanting.

One of the four letters is approved by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that about the Archbishop of Tuam. Against the other three there are some objections

which I am directed to acquaint your Grace with. To the letter for making a fund for erecting a Hospital for un-serviceable soldiers etc., it is said that being a work of charity and for people who will be very necessitous, there ought to be as little diverted as can be, and the whole design should be managed with all possible thrift, so that the clause about an allowance to be made to a receiver ought to be further considered. It is now without any limitation or certainty, and therefore may end in erecting an office too considerable for so charitable a purpose. Whereas the King having a surveyor of works there, who has now a convenient salary, and this building being like to be near Dublin, the erecting it may very well be under his oversight, and there will be no need of a receiver till the house is finished; after which, if such an officer shall be thought necessary and that the duty cannot be well performed otherwise, it is conceived that the fees allowed him should be particularised in the letter, not to exceed such a sum as shall be moderately thought convenient.

The letters for allowing some warrants for money laid out upon occasion of the Northern expedition meets with this obstruction that some of the particulars of expense mentioned are of the nature of such contingencies as are by the establishment to be defrayed out of the Concordatum money. And it is being required by the establishment that an account of concordatums should be every three months certified over hither, it is at least necessary that before these sums are allowed such an account should be accordingly transmitted.

The last letter which is for appropriating the overplus of the revenue to public uses is looked upon as a very good and necessary work; but before it passeth it is thought for His Majesty's service that some way of discharging the arrears of the last quarter of the year '75 be first found out. The Farmers were willing, about the time my Lord of Essex left that Government, to have undertaken the payment of this arrear, if they might have been secured out of their rent in case they were not reimbursed by my Lord Ranelagh by a day limited. But other matters intervening, this agreement was not perfected. It is now desired that either the same (if the Farmers will agree to it) or some other expedient be made use of for paying these poor men, who have been so long out of their money, while this overplus, not being fixed, is capable of being a security.

PRIMATE BOYLE to LADY RANELAGH.*

1679, April 4, Dublin.—I am infinitely obliged to your ladyship for the honour of your ladyship's of the 8th instant, which I received yesterday, wherein you have been pleased

* Elizabeth, daughter of Francis, Lord Willoughby of Parham, 1st wife of Richard, 3rd Viscount and 1st Earl of Ranelagh.

to give me the greatest argument of friendship that is expressible, by letting me know what in these busy times those who have no kindness for me have been pleased to speak to my disadvantage.

To what your ladyship writes of Col. FitzPatrick, I must not deny that I have a respect and kindness for him. He was a near relation to my wife*; he is one whom I have long been acquainted with, and who hath been civil to me by many obligations. I must acknowledge that he had an extraordinary interest in this country and especially upon his own countrymen; but I must inform you that he hath ever had disagreements with the titular Archbishop Talbot and his partizans, and (as I believe) shocked them more than anyone of his persuasion did in the whole kingdom. Affairs standing thus between them, why it should not be reasonably supposed that I might make as good use of him for the advancement of the Protestant interest and for His Majesty's service as he should influence to their prejudice, I cannot readily assign a reason. But that occasion of offence is now removed, for near a week since he hath quit this place upon the commands which His Majesty sent over for that purpose upon the address from the House of Lords.

As to the Bills that were sent on or preparatory for a Parliament here, which your ladyship are pleased to tell me have some reflection on me, I answer the whole Council that were in town signed them as much as I did; every paragraph and line of them were argued with all the freedom that was desired, as well at a Committee as at the Council Table; and when they were transmitted hence, they were submitted to such amendments and alterations as the King and Council of England should think fit. And how the Protestant interest in this kingdom should be designed to be prejudiced by these Bills is beyond imagination. They were to pass a Protestant Council here, a Protestant Council in England, a Protestant Parliament in this kingdom, and what is more a Protestant Parliament whose fortunes were for the greatest part of them made up by the new and forfeited interests in this country. And how under the test and trial of all these it could possibly be supposed that Bills designing the prejudice of the Protestant interest should pass seems to me a kind of riddle which I cannot resolve. Perhaps indeed there may be differences and by consequence mistakes in opinion; and some may think one way best for the settlement of the interest which others do not approve; but that there could be any design or intention to wrong the Protestant interest cannot be well conceived.

I must acknowledge that times are much changed and the face of affairs altered since these Bills were sent away.

* Archbishop Boyle was twice married; 1st to Margaret daughter of Dr. George Synge, Bishop of Clogher; 2nd to Mary daughter of Dermot 5th Baron Inchiquin. It was to the latter lady that Col. FitzPatrick was related.

We had then no knowledge or supposition of any Plots or conspiracies by the Papists; and therefore those measures which might have been thought convenient at that time to perfect the final settlement of the English interest may be very reasonably rejected now; and this lies still before His Majesty and Council to consider. But why this should have any reflection upon me, or upon any other single person of the Council I cannot apprehend. But I find by some letters out of England, as I find by the honour of your ladyship, that I am discoursed of there by very many that I am a great favourer of the Papists (whether it be on the occasion of those Bills or no I cannot say, or upon what other reason I cannot guess). Truly I cannot recollect how the Papists have deserved any such kindness from me, unless it be by having been as great a sufferer by them from the beginning of the Rebellion as they could make me. But as to the objection: if by being a favourer of the Papists they intend that I am a favourer of their religion, it is a scandal which I disdain to answer, since my whole life, conversation and profession from my youth until this day hath been a constant and uninterrupted testimony against it to the utmost of my capacity. If they mean that I am a favourer of those interests in this kingdom, it can imply no less than that I am a traitor both to my religion and to my country, which is more uncharitable and severe than the former. For to the former imputations this must likewise be added, that I am a madman too. Few sober men design against their own interest. That little fortune which I have is for the greatest part of it upon the new interest. I have many children and relations and friends, and these not very inconsiderable, whose being and subsistence depend upon the Act of Settlement and Explanation. And for me at this time of day (being above 64 years old) to decline the consideration of myself, my children, my friends and relations for nothing but a vain, airy and impossible supposition that I should expect a better provision for myself and them under an Irish-Papist interest than I now enjoy, must needs conclude that I stood more in need of hellebore to cure my madness than of any other conviction or reproof. Besides those who know how far I have been publicly engaged against the pretensions of the Irish interest before the King and Council in England, in my attendance upon the Act of Settlement for the Protestant interest in this kingdom (whereof my Lord of Ossory is a competent witness), for I then was employed by the Lords Justices (whereof his lordship was one) upon that service, must conclude that I who went so far and was so successful against them in the greatest concerns that I had in the world (viz., their fortunes and estates) ought never expect any safety, much less advantage from their favour.

Another objection which I am informed is taken up against me, is that my two employments of Primate and

Chancellor are inconsistent in one person. As to the Primacy I must confess it was not ambition that put me upon it, nor any particular benefit, for I was well enough before, and my advantage was not considerable thereby, but for reasons referring to the public it was thought fit that I should be recommended to the see, which I submitted to, tho' perhaps with greater reluctancy than is supposed, or will be believed by some. But as to the inconsistency of them together, there is doubtless no other argument than for the inconsistency of the Chancellorship with the Archbishopric of Dublin, against which I heard no objection all the time that I was Archbishop of that see—nor is there any difference in the matter. For there lie appeals equally from both unto the King in Chancery. And it ever hath been so while the Great Seal hath been committed unto either of those Archbishops, which hath been very frequent. And this satisfaction I have to myself in that particular of appeals to the delegates (for the appeal is not to the Chancellor himself, but to such delegates as shall be appointed for the cause, who are usually constituted of some of the judges and some eminent divines and civil lawyers, and these are to be named by the consent of both Chief Justices, and the Master of the Rolls and the Vice-Treasurer, or of any two of them, whereof the Vice-Treasurer to be one) that ever since I had the honour of serving the King in the condition of Chancellor, which is now about ten years, I never yet had any complaints against the proceedings of the delegates, for all the matters of this nature are managed by persons of quality, of public employment, and in public places.

Madam, I am much out of countenance that I have drawn this letter into such a tedious length, but I preferred to do it for your ladyship's satisfaction, and for the satisfaction of such as shall discourse to your ladyship upon that subject, and I cannot doubt but, since your ladyship gave me the occasion for it, your abundant charity will pardon it.

Endorsed in the Primate's hand "A copy of mine to my Lady Ranelagh."

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 15, London.—This morning my Lord of Shaftesbury brought into the House a copy of Col. Fitzpatrick's grant, casting many reflections upon it and upon the person, all which were seconded very vigorously by my Lord of Essex. I averred with much truth that I was ignorant, at least did not remember the particulars of it; but at the desire of the Committee I promised to inquire how the matter stood, and would speak of it with my Lord of Longford, in whose name this grant for Fitzpatrick was passed. Just now my Lord of Longford was with me, who will discourse with Secretary Coventry and consider what is to be answered. It will be difficult to give satisfaction in this point, so great is the

prejudice which is generally conceived against this gentleman, for whom I have appeared as far as the rules of discretion and my friendship for him would go, and for the future shall endeavour to prevent his having any injustice done him.

The clearing towns from Irish Papists I find the House is very fond of. As I am sure both in them wherein you have an interest as well as in all your estate you have endeavoured to get English Protestant tenants, so I would be glad you would furnish me with some instances to prove this truth. I find many very much exasperated against my Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and great noise made against the decree in favour of St. Leger. I doubt not he will be able to justify the integrity of his actings, if right and not violence take place. My Lord of Burlington told me as a friend that it was taken notice of that there was not a day set apart there of humiliation, as was here. I think the case differs much, but however I thought it proper to give you this hint. I am told my Lord of Danby has writ to the Black Rod to let him know where he will be this evening.

REV. HENRY ALDRICH to SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

1679, April 11, Christ Church, Oxford.—By advice from Mr. Percival I understand with how great honour and generosity my Lord Ossory was pleased to resent the late unhappy error of his servant. I am obliged both in Mr. Berkeley's behalf and my own to acknowledge his lordship's great goodness in it, and to return our humble thanks to you for the trouble you received and the favour you did us in making a fair and equal representation of the whole thing to my lord. Mr. Drelincourt is since so very sensible of his error, and hath made so fair an acknowledgment to Mr. Berkeley, that I am sure he will not only repair an injury but gain a friend by it. I humbly request that when he comes to make testimony of this to my lord you will be pleased to countenance him, and join with his intercession that my lord will be pleased to honour the reconciliation by a share in it, and to receive Mr. Drelincourt into his good opinion again. And I doubt not that as his lordship has laid a great obligation upon us in receiving an unwilling complaint, so he will infinitely add to it by accepting this address, which is much more suitable to our inclinations to make, and more welcome to your charity to assist.

REV. PETER DRELINCOURT to SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

1679, April Oxford.—I should have long since answered your letter of the 12th of the last month ; but I having nothing to write but the returning of thanks I thought it needless to trouble your honour with an empty letter, especially in such busy time, and among the weighty affairs you are taken with in Parliament. Mr. Mulys I suppose, Sir, hath informed you of the order his Grace the Duke of Ormond hath given about

money to serve my Lord James' occasions. His lordship is very well, and goeth on in his studies as I wrote to you heretofore. It is no easy matter to persuade my Lord Courcy into learning of French. He gives me fair words about it, and daily puts me off from week to week. I'm very ready to do him any kindness that lieth in my power. When I took the liberty to acquaint your honour with my design of keeping weekly accounts of my lord's expenses in the College, I did it thinking it not inconvenient, having received advice here to do so, and that from more than one student of this house; and even my lord bishop told me something towards it, the day after our arrival here.

I would not make bold here, Sir, to trouble you with the reading of an idle story, did I not think you have heard of it afore to my great disadvantage and discredit, and that it may make some ill impression in your mind concerning me. The thing is, in short, Sir, that my Lord James, having been several times abused here by one Mr. Berkeley, and that having brought his lordship to such sad humour and discontent that he was pressing me day and night to write to my lord Duke and my lord of Ossory for to get him out of this place (or at least of this College), so that I had very much ado to persuade him to put on his gown any more, or to eat in the hall as he used to do, or even to bring him to his studies. Seeing my lord bishop (by whose means only we might hope to receive any satisfaction) was not here, that no redress could be made in his absence so as to satisfy my lord, being mighty sensible to see my lord in such condition, and finding no other way to content his lordship and to bring him to a better temper of mind, and in order to prevent also his fighting with the sword, Sunday last was sennight the quarrel having been renewed at supper, I went after to look for Mr. Berkeley, and having met him I asked him the reason of his continually abusing my Lord James, which boldly and straightly denying I answered him he did not say true, since he done it that very night; and since he was so apt to forget and to deny it, I went so far as to give him (though very softly and only upon his hairs) a little box. Thus I confess, Sir, I have done and no more indeed; though it be from hence very maliciously reported with many strange additions and exasperations, at purpose to make me forfeit my lord's illustrious friends' favour. It would be the greatest trouble in the world to me if they could obtain their end. I hope, Sir, you will be pleased to put a better construction upon this fault of mine, which I have not committed at first, but upon several provocations, when my lord bishop was not here, when I could no other-wise satisfy my lord when he daily complained to me of my suffering him to be abused, and transported with a passion warmed by my real affection for my lord.

My lord of Ossory hath acquainted me with his disliking that action of mine very much, and commanded me to beg

the young gentleman's pardon ; which I did as soon as I had read his honour's letter, and made reparation at the same place and at the same hour wherein the offence hath been done, even before far greater company than there was when it was done. For there were but two persons witnesses of the first, and there were nine or ten of the other. Even yesterday morning when the gentleman went away from hence, I renewed my excuses to him again. I humbly beg yours, Sir, if I have displeased you on this occasion, and I hope of your wonted goodness and charity that you will be pleased to assist me in recovering my lord of Ossory's and my Lord Chamberlain's goodwill, if it be so that I have been so unhappy as to lose it in great part by this unlucky business, so far against my continual desires and endeavours. This if you are pleased to do, and to continue me your favour and protection, which I set a very high value upon, you shall thereby put a very great obligation upon me.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, April 15, London. Yesterday was the fatal day to the Earl of Danby. In debate of his bill the Lords spent all the morning. The question was whether their lordships should adhere to their own bill for his banishment or concur with the Commons for his attainder. At last it was carried by three voices to concur with the Commons. Six bishops went out and gave no votes, and seven stayed in and all voted to adhere ; but the Court party did not befriend him as the Duke Mon.[mouth] Lords Roch[ester], Mulg[rave]: Nap : [?] Manch[ester]: etc.

By this time the Commons were risen having appointed to sit again in the afternoon, so the Lords adjourned also to the same time. The Commons were more for listening after what the Lords did than doing themselves. Several debates they had before them. The most material were these. Being informed that the Lords had entered in their books all the reports that Committee had made to whom the examination of the Plot was referred, and that amongst them were some secrets that as yet ought to be kept so, they appointed a Committee to search the Lords' Journals and the next day to report what they found there. Then they proceeded to consider the state and condition of the whole nation, taking in foreign preparations as well as their own. The first branch at home was that of the militia, which whilst they were consulting how to manage and improve, and render more practicable for the safety of the nation, a scruple was raised that till the hands in which it was now lodged were better the strengthening of the militia might but weaken themselves. Some expressed their exceptions against the Lord Lieutenants, some dissatisfied at the Deputy Lieutenants, and others disliked the officers. The objections were also extended to the Cinque Ports and the whole fleet, some proposing a general alteration of all those officers, as either

created or influenced by the Duke. At length that of the militia was respited till Wednesday, and the rest till Thursday ; and so that House adjourned till the afternoon, designed only for the hearing of the Leicestershire election. But when they met they soon found they had other fish to fry : the Lords saluting them with a design of a free conference, to which they readily condescended. At which the Lords acquainted them that they had agreed to their Bill of Attainder, only lengthening the time for the Earl of Danby's coming in till the 21st (from the 15th). The Commons took the Bill, and as soon as they had reported those amendments to the House, they concurred and sent back the Bill. The Lords were no sooner possessed of it than they appointed an Address to be delivered to His Majesty by the White Staves, to desire his passing the Bill next morning, and so adjourned. The Commons proceeded to hear what Sir Joseph Hartop could say against the return of Lord Sherard and Lord Roose for Knights of Leicestershire, but could not go through that cause that night.

This morning the Lords received an account that tomorrow the King would come in his robes, it is presumed only to pass the Earl of Danby's Bill, but His Majesty hath not yet bespoke his own errand. The greatest part of the morning was spent in hammering upon Irish bills against the growth of Popery, and to secure it against the danger of those who are so, which hath formerly been on the anvil, of which I suppose a lord of that House will give a more particular account. At last they resolved to commit it, but I presume they begin now to find their own error ; that the way of Ireland is not so naturally by an Act of Parliament here, as to be recommended and represented to the consideration of the King and Council to be transmitted into Ireland, and to have its sanction by the Parliament there. I do visibly perceive that though all these maladies and remedies pretended to result from a love to Ireland, it is really no effect of kindness, but to create guilt and then apply it.

My Lord Bellasis sent in his answer this morning and 'twas received because he is not able to bring it himself, but the other Lords are ordered to attend with theirs at the Lords' bar tomorrow morning.

The Commons, to show their concern for the prosecution of the Plot, this morning have ordered their Committee of Secrecy to sit from time to time, though the very House sits. Then on Sir George Downing's reports of the accounts of the Army, amounting to about 2,000*l*, and Mr. Secretary Coventry pressing for His Majesty's supply, they have ordered tomorrow morning to resolve into a Grand Committee to consider for a supply for His Majesty for disbanding the Army.

This afternoon the House hears the Leicester election at the bar, what Sir Joseph Hartop can say against the Lords

Sherard and Roose why they were not duly returned Knights of that shire. I have enclosed the Votes of yesterday morning and afternoon, and also of this day.

VISCOUNT MASSEREENE to ORMOND.

1679, April 15, London.—Upon my coming hither but last week (for I stayed a month in and about Staffordshire) I found that the House of Peers had made several animadversions upon the present state of Ireland, and although without reflection (as divers of their lordships assured me) yet have pressed several things as necessary to be done for the security of that kingdom, which I could wish had their rise (and I think it's not too late), as I presume they must have their desired effect, from your Grace's concern. The greatest of them I take to be the Oaths and Test, enacted here and now proposed for us also, upon a received opinion that our Parliaments in Ireland must not have a different constitution. The present state of the cities and corporations, the militia, the garrisons, and what is overplus of the revenue above the charge, are some of the matters I perceive of general inquiry. The Commons are not less inquisitive, albeit their being otherwise taken up for the present has not given them the leisure they have had above, to move these particulars.

I could not have imagined, may it please your Grace, till I found it, that what I have affirmed to many here concerning the proceedings in Ireland should so little obtain, especially touching the search for the dignified and regular Popish clergy, as well as arms. But as to the securing of persons liable they have been also inquisitive; and I could confidently assure them, as I did, that your Grace gave the necessary orders in all places most strictly upon the least suspicion, of which I had many instances. And now my lord as I have no design by this most humble address to your Grace but the highest duty to your person, government and family, so I could most earnestly wish that such things as you conceive for the general future good and present security of Ireland may be represented hither, which might anticipate some essays from other hands in this juncture.

As to the Bill for quieting possessions, I find it as liable here as it was to those who on the other side were not able to comprehend the advantage of it to the settlement. I have very frequently by my Lord Ossory's permission attended him since my coming, and he was pleased to oblige me by presenting me to kiss the King's hand. I shall upon all occasions apply myself to his lordship where I conceive it may be of service to your Grace

EARL OF LONGFORD to GEORGE MATHEW.

1679, April 15, London.—The election in Surrey wherein I met with so ill success has proved so chargeable to me that

the inconveniences of it necessitate me now to draw bills of exchange into Ireland payable the 12th day of May next; and therefore, to preserve my credit, I must entreat the favour of you by that time at furthest to pay the half year's rent of my wife's jointure, which will be due the 1st of May, unto my steward Hoyle; for which I assure you I would not have so early called upon you, who are so punctual a paymaster, but that I am at present somewhat hard put to it. For though I have in the East India Company's hands a good sum of money, yet I cannot call upon them for the payment of it till the arrival of their next ships from India, which are expected in June, and by which I have the prospect of a very considerable return from thence of my brother's estate. For this reason I hope you will pardon me for my forwardness in calling thus soon upon you.

The prosecution of Colonel Fitzpatrick continues still in the House of Lords, where this morning was moved a repeal of his grant of the Quit Rents. You can easily guess with what design this was moved. But pray be not frightened at it. For our friend who is principally aimed at will not be much hurt by these glances. You know he is Parliament proof, and will stand his ground and outride the malice of this storm endeavoured to be raised by his enemies. The Bill for attainting of the Earl of Danby yesterday passed the Lords, after all their struggles to compound it for a banishment; but he has time to appear till the 31st inst. The Lords by my Lord Privy Seal and my Lord Roberts moved His Majesty for his speedy royal assent to the Bill: to which His Majesty answered that he would tomorrow appear in his robes, and ordered the Lords to do so too; so that it is believed the Bill will then pass into a law.

All the Lords in the Tower this morning sent their plea of Not Guilty to the Lords; but all their pleas, excepting Lord Bellasis' were rejected because they did not personally appear at the bar to give them in; and my Lord Bellasis' was received because he is lame of the gout, and could not be there in person. Mr. Reading is to be tried tomorrow for endeavouring to suborn Mr. Bedloe; and tomorrow the House of Commons will take into consideration the disbanding of the army, and the making the militia useful in case of an invasion from France, where there is now a large preparation of men of war and land forces on the sea coast. Thus Sir you have all the news I can collect for this time.

EARL OF ORBERRY to ORMOND.

1679, April 17, Castlemartyr.—This morning at 9 of the clock I had an express from Kinsale, with letters from Lt. Col. Alexander Monro, giving me advertisement of his landing at Kinsale with nineteen companies, and that two more were put into Cork Harbour. I had also letters from the Sovereign of Kinsale, apprising me that on advice with

that Corporation he found they were not able to quarter above four companies there. I had also by the same express enclosed in Lt. Col. Monro's the honour of your Grace's to me of the 18th of the last month. I wish I had received it sooner; for then I should have been able to have known where all those twenty-one companies might have been most commodiously quartered, and have had the orders on the place for the same, to have met them on their landing. But now being strengthened in time, I have according to the best of my own knowledge and the best advice I could get sent them orders where to quarter till your Excellency commands them other quarters. I found it so impossible to quarter the said twenty-one companies closer together than in this enclosed list of places, unless they were quartered in private houses, which being against law and practice, I durst not order it.

I humbly present your Grace the copy of my letter to the Lieutenant Colonel, and a copy of one of these warrants which I direct to the several places where the companies are to be quartered. Only I direct to the chief gentlemen of those places they are to quarter at those warrants where the places are not corporations, or have no civil magistrates. Your Grace will see in my letter to Lieutenant Colonel Monro that I expect the five companies to be quartered at Kinsale shall do the duty at Rincurran, so that now Captain Hillier's company need not be returned to Kinsale.

The Sovereign of Kinsale writing to me that Mr. Upton would not deliver our money for the month's pay of the regiment till he had orders, I judged it necessary to write to him as I have done in this enclosed, which is a true copy of my letter to him. I have also written to the [illegible] Justices of the Peace, as your Grace has commanded in your Excellency's letter to me of the 18th of last month.. Whatever has been omitted by me in the hurry of these despatches for the quartering of that regiment shall be mended either by me, as soon as I perceive it, or as soon as it shall be signified to me by the Lieutenant Colonel. And whatever further commands your Excellency shall honour me with, they shall be punctually and cheerfully obeyed.

LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNCIL to the COMMISSIONERS
OF ARRAY of the SEVERAL COUNTIES OF IRELAND.

1679, April 18. Dublin.—After our hearty commendations, having by former letters from this Board given you notice of the sudden exportation of arms and ammunition out of England, wherewith the militia troops and companies of that country might be supplied with such a proportion as they should have occasion to buy; We now think fit to signify to you that the arms and ammunition are arrived, and that the rates of them are agreed on and settled at the Board according to the list enclosed; at which rates the said arms and ammunition are to be issued by the officers

of the Ordnance here, with the licence of us the Lord Lieutenant to such persons as will make application for them.

We holding it necessary to have a full accompt of the present state and condition of the militia in the kingdom have thought fit hereby to require you to agree upon one of your own members, or to appoint some fit person in the nature of a muster-master to take a particular and muster (in your view) of the several militia troops and companies of that county, and for each of them to make up a muster roll in due form, therein adding to each person's name the quality of the arms and the condition wherein they are. And as well the said muster-master as one or more of the commissioned officers of the said troops and companies respectively to subscribe the said muster roll, which being so perfected you are to return unto us by or before the last day of May next, and to certify unto us whether the said troops and companies have been trained and exercised since they were arrayed upon the last commission, and how often and when they were last so exercised, and also the names of the particular place or places appointed by you for the general rendezvous of the said troops and companies, and for lodging the arms, ammunition, drums and colours belonging to them. And so, expecting an exact account from you of these particulars we bid you farewell. From the Council Chamber in Dublin, the 18th of April, 1679.

Your loving friends,

ORMOND.

Mich. Armach, C., Jo. Dublin, Arran, Lanesborough, Blessinton, Chas. Meredith, Hen. Midensis, John Cole, Jon. Davys.

To our loving friend the Sheriff of the County of Dublin, and to our very good lord the Earl of Meath, Lord Viscount Blessinton, Lord Viscount Lanesborough, Lord Santry and Sir Thomas Worship [Worssop] Knight, or to any of them to be communicated to the rest of His Majesty's Commissioners of Array for the said County. The like letter to the Commissioners of Array in the several counties of the kingdom.

EARL OF OSSORY to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1679, April 19.—I received your letters of the 2nd and 8th of this month. As ill news commonly flies fast, so I believe you have before this heard of my daughter Derby's being delivered of a child dead, but she I thank God is very well. I most humbly thank you for your kindness to my wife and me. As affairs move so we will guide ours, and either stay here or else accept your most kind invitation of her to shelter herself and run the same fortune with you. I beseech you to let Colonel Fitzpatrick know that I would have appeared for him more than I did if I could anyways have served him. But so violent and unjust were the proceedings of some, that no

opposition could be made. I will not forsake my friends for being unfortunate, and as occasions may happen I will do him more right than if I had vainly and more obstinately pursued his defence. My Lord Shaftesbury and I had long discourse, wherein he assured me of his value for me, and respect for our family, upon which we parted upon fair terms, he assuring me he would first tell me his exceptions, if he had any, as to the affairs of Ireland, and I undertook to satisfy his doubts all I could. He professed to be against Colonel Macarty's being here; the more because he valued him. I told him if he were such in his opinion, I thought it would have troubled him to have made a harsh motion towards a person going away to serve abroad, he having very wisely made capitulations to serve the King of Denmark. I also showed this lord a reference favourable enough in behalf of Fitzpatrick when his lordship was one of the Treasury. But at his desire I put it into his hands, and assured him I would make no ill use of it if he would not more persecute this gentleman, and that if he would give us fair quarter we would live upon good terms: so our conversation ended. If very strange informations and circumstances be true I have reason to believe my Lord of Essex is one of the bitterest enemies my father has. Of all this make your use, and let what I wish be no ways known. I wish you all happiness.

EARL OF OSSOBY to ORMOND.

1679, April 19.—I received this morning your letters of the 1st and 12th of this month, and am glad my proceedings in the House of Lords have not been displeasing to you. I assure you besides the speech reflecting on Ireland and Scotland, my Lord of Shaftesbury had severely mentioned things relating to you, which occasioned the return I made to you of the 12th. I am sorry if the mules do not please you, and that there is some lost. The equipage that belongs to them I will send by the first occasion. The man, if it be la Vyne that brought them, is a very honest and useful, sober man. I did offer the King this letter relating what passed between the officers and the priest, as also what was done about the [*illegible*] which I shall make use of as occasion offers. A judicious and worthy friend of yours has conjured me to assure you of his service, and that in recompense of his not writing to you, having the gout in his hands, he will be watchful and do his utmost, when he hears anything wherein you are concerned. The pains of Sir Robert Southwell, and his and my Lord Chamberlain's zeal for you and your family, can never be too much acknowledged by us. You will receive a long letter which would render anything I should now say further very impertinent.

SAME to SAME.

1679, April 22.—I doubt not but you will have a relation of the King's dissolving his Council, as also the names of

others that are chosen. His Majesty was pleased to make very kind excuses that I was not of the number of those he had again elected. Upon which I assured him that I did not in the least repine, and begged him to believe that I would ever be ready to serve him in any station; that, if anything hard did ever befall me, I had reason to believe it would proceed from the ill will of others, having had many and sufficient proofs of his graciousness towards my family, and myself in particular. As the Queen this afternoon returned from Somerset House, Mr. Oates met her in the courtyard of Whitehall, and passing close by her chair did not vouchsafe to take off his hat as he looked full in her face. My Lord Shaftesbury, otherwise my Lord President, in a debate this morning, whether or no Nonconformists should be obliged to take the oaths, said that, if some things were not done, for his part he desired not the honour of being in His Majesty's counsels, by which several guessed that he thought his being of them was upon necessity, and that he did grace in coming to them. Great whispers are against you, as Sir Robert Southwell informed you. I hope in God the worst they can do will be to remove you from your present station.

COL. EDWARD COOKE TO ORMOND.

1679, April 22, London.—Sunday the 20th was a day of great surprises. The King summoning his Privy Council dissolved them; declared he took no exceptions at any man, but thanked them well for their services; told them he was resolved for the future to have no Cabinet Council, and to reduce the Privy Council to the usual number of thirty; besides a President, when there should be any, (now my Lord Shaftesbury), and the Secretary of Scotland when here, and those of the blood, as Prince Rupert. The whole thirty should be thus comprised; fifteen to be partly out of the officers of the Crown, and partly out of those of the Household; ten to be chose out of the rest of the nobility by two out of each class, and five Commoners. To represent the Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of London; the Law, the Lord Chancellor and one of the Chief Justices, (now North); the Treasury, when no Lord Treasurer, the eldest or first Commissioner of the Treasury (now my Lord Essex) and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (now Sir John Ernely). For the Fleet, in the vacancy of a Lord Admiral, the Chief Commissioner of the Admiralty (now Sir Henry Capel), and the Master of the Ordnance (now Sir Thomas Chicheley). Then follows Lord Privy Seal, Lord Steward—the King declared the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when in England, to be constantly of the Privy Council; so that your Grace is doubly entitled to it)—Lord Chamberlain, Master of the Horse, Groom of the Stool and two Secretaries. Of the Dukes, Newcastle and Albemarle; of the Marquesses, Winchester and Worcester; of the Earls, Bridgewater and

Salisbury ; of the Viscounts, Falconbridge and Halifax ; of the Barons, Roberts and Hollis ; of the Commons, Lord Russell, Lord Cavendish, Sir William Temple (tho' no member). Mr. Seymour (the old Speaker), Mr. Powle (my countryman), His Majesty also declared he would make these seven following : the Commissioner of the Admiralty, Sir Henry Capel, Mr. Dan. Finch (Lord Chancellor's eldest son), Sir Thomas Lee, Sir Thomas Meres, Sir Humphrey Winch, Mr. Vaughan, Mr. Hales (son to Sir Edward Hales of Kent, we suppose).

Monday morning, [April] the 21. The new Council was sworn, and the King came into the Lords' House in his robes, and having sent for the Commons to the bar, gave an account of what he had done and what he resolved to do ; that he had dissolved one Council and chose another, who next his Great Council, who he resolved chiefly to be guided by, he resolved to consult ; and therefore hastened them to consider of and despatch the public affairs depending before them. More than this, little was done in the Lords' House, only some days appointed for hearing appeals, some reports of new discoveries made before the Committee of Examination, and on a petition of my Lord Danby's presented by my Lord Frechville, and seconded by the Duke of Monmouth, the time of putting in his answer was lengthened from Wednesday till Friday. The great and only business in the Commons House was the hearing the Norfolk election at Bar, where Sir Christopher Calthorpe and Sir Neville Catline were returned knights for that county, and objected against by Sir John Hubbard. At nine at night the election was voided, and new writs ordered to be sent out.

Tuesday, April 22. The Lords entertained themselves with a long Bill of Religion, and a longer debate how they should separate, or whether they should separate, the other Nonconformists from the Papists. So many champions appeared *pro* and *con.* that it was thought fit at one o'clock to adjourn the House till tomorrow and the debate till Thursday ; nothing else of moment falling under debate.

The Commons having sworn a member, and received some reports (as concerning the Bill for all the Convocation to take the oaths and tests) they received a private bill for sale of land to pay Lord Mohun's debts. Sir Francis Winnington craved leave on behalf of the private Committee who were to draw up my Lord Danby's new charge, to send for (by way of [*illegible*]) any member of the House to give them information, that they might have a solicitor allowed them, and sit from time to time during the sitting of the House. Then they read the first time the Bill for the disbanding the Army. Several other particulars I shall omit to insert because I have now got the Votes of both days, which I here enclose.

There is great expectation of great advantage from this new change, the effects of which (as long as I continue in

this part of the world) I shall presume to communicate to your Grace. The great doubt now is whether my Lord Danby or the five Popish Lords shall have preference in their trial, for the resolving which doubt great debates are expected. But I believe the five lords will first come to their trials. One can yet make no conjectures what will be the event of these great changes, because the surprise and amazement is not yet over. The King seems very cheerfully, yet very jealous of the French, insomuch that new supplies are sent down to Parliament. Old Major Giles Morgan died this last week in his government of Jersey, and Sir John Lauder [? Saunders] (if I mistake not his Christian name or do not misspell his surname) succeeds him; which the Commons grumble at because they know him not, concluding him both a Papist and a Frenchman. And last night poor Davy Walter died, and George Legge succeeds him, which is all that at present occurs to my frail memory.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, April 22, Whitehall.—This last post brought me three from your Grace, two of the 7th and one of the 10th inst. Mine of the 8th to your Grace hath acquainted you how the King had complied with Mr. Attorney's refusal, and had made no determinate resolution, nor would till he should hear from your Grace: so that I have not acquainted him with what you write this post in expectation of your answer to mine of the 8th inst. Yours and the Council's letters concerning the Earl of Tyrone have been read at our new Council, and the method you have taken is approved of; and His Majesty has thought fit not to intermeddle, but leave it to law, where it now is. Your narrative I have likewise lodged at the Council. Sir Nicholas Armorer's letter is at last come from the Commissioners of the Treasury, who in their report have excepted against the clause of during his good behaviour, and would have it run *durante bene placito*. I believe I cannot get it signed and entered tonight, but I doubt not before the next post it will be ready. Your Grace sent a letter in behalf of Lord Massereene which is full of blanks. I desire your Grace would fill up those blanks, for the King cannot sign to a blank; and the Commissioners of the Treasury would be troubled to fill them up without any light given by your Grace. As soon as you transmit it so filled up, I shall give it all despatch imaginable.

Our reformatations here are sudden and great. I wish they may produce the desired effect. But to be well heard at Court, and well spoken of in Parliament is a great good fortune, if our new Ministers can acquire it. But though they have as yet done neither good nor evil, I find the bare being preferred maketh some of them suspected, though not criminal. From abroad we have little news, only the death of the King of Sweden, which though we have no certainty of, yet many

circumstances make us believe it. As we come to be a little more settled I shall not fail to give your Grace an account more perfect than this.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1679, April 22, St. James's Square.—There has been another great change of affairs since the last post. The King on Easter Day dissolved his Privy Council, and instituted a new one to consist of thirty members, besides such Princes of the Blood as he shall think fit, and a President. Fifteen of these are to be as many of the great officers of the Crown ; ten noblemen (two of each order) and five commoners.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------------|
| Lord President, | | Dukes | { Newcastle. |
| Earl of Shaftesbury | .. | | { Albemarle. |
| Lord Chancellor | .. | Marquesses | { Winchester |
| | | | { Worcester |
| Lord Treasurer | | Earls | { Bridgewater |
| or Chief Commissioner | .. | | { Salisbury |
| Lord Steward | | Viscounts | { Falconbridge |
| | | | { Halifax |
| Lord Privy Seal | | Barons | { Roberts |
| | | | { Hollis |
| Lord Chamberlain | | | { Lord Cavendish |
| Groom of the Stole | | | { Lord Russell |
| Chancellor of the Exchequer | .. | Com- | { Sir William Temple |
| Master of the Ordinance | .. | moners | { Mr. Seymour |
| Master of the Horse | | | { Mr. Powle |
| Two Secretaries of State | | | |
| Archbishop of Canterbury | | | |
| Bishop of London | | | |
| One of the Lord Chief Justices | | | |
| (at present the Chief Justice of | | | |
| the Common Pleas) | | | |
| Secretary of Scotland, if the King | | | |
| please. | | | |

He has been pleased to appoint the Commissioners of the Admiralty, Sir Henry Capel, who is therefore a Privy Counsellor, Sir Thomas Lee, Sir Thomas Meres, Sir Humphrey Winch, Mr. Dan Finch, Mr. Hales of Kent (son of Sir Edward), Mr. Vaughan (son of the late Lord Chief Justice).

Other changes are talked of too, as the Court of Chancery and the Mastership of the Ordinance, shall be put into Commission ; that all the Lieutenancies and Commissions of the Peace through England shall be reviewed, and most of them altered ; that the governors of the seaports and the masters of ships shall be reformed ; and, in fine, that a general inspection shall be made into all places of trust in the nation. In this so universal an alteration (as 'tis thought there will be) I hope I shall have your Grace's pardon if I acquaint you that it is said that the Lieutenancy of Ireland

shall likewise be in commission. Before any change of this kind happen in that kingdom (which that it may be long first, for the service of the King and good of the country, I wish) I humbly conceive it fit to acquaint Mr. Brisban with what I received from your Grace last Saturday night by yours of the [] instant, because I am very sure your Grace's being in the Government will be a great part of the encouragement.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ORREERY.

1679, April 22, Dublin.—I have, for the present, no answer to make to your lordship's of the 17th of this month, concerning the quartering of the Regiment lately landed in these parts, but that I approve of the care your lordship has taken in it, to which nothing can be added. I sent this morning to one of the Farmers. I am assured by him that the Collector has advanced some part of the month's pay I ordered long since to be ready at the landing of the regiment, and that the remainder shall be soon paid. I observe that in the order your lordship gave for quartering the companies, you inserted a clause which declares that it is against law to billet any soldiers anywhere but in inns, ale or victualling houses, without the consent of the housekeeper, which I wish had been omitted. For tho' the law may be so, yet if I am not mistaken, the contrary has been practised in this kingdom, even in time of peace, ever since the Conquest, at one time or other, in most if not all the Governors' times. Nor have I ever seen such restriction put into any patent or order for quarter soever that I can remember; but the directions go to give the men sufficient quarters, the manner being left to the civil officers, who are to distribute the men with equality to the inhabitants. And possibly such a declaration may be more inconvenient now than another time; for your lordship knows the Government has found it necessary to give order for the doing of some things as little warranted by law, and less by custom, than the quartering of soldiers upon private houses. Corporations do seldom need to be put in mind of their privileges as such, or as subjects at large, but will often insist upon them against their profit. And I have observed that none among them are more apt to challenge the benefit of laws they suppose made for them than those that give least obedience to other laws they do not like.

If it were in my power to contribute more than I have done to your Lady's and your own safe and easy passage I would do it. Give me leave, my lord, to own the great civility of your expressions concerning me in a letter of yours to the Lord Primate, which he was pleased to read to me, and to assure you that I am a great stranger to my own nature if I am so arrogant as to expect that men of much less capacity than your lordship should do the least violence to their reason

and beliefs in complying with mine. And if it had pleased His Majesty to have left me on the same level with your lordship as I was before he put me in this station, and shall be when he removes me from it, our difference in judgment could have brought no other inconvenience to me than that most men might think me in the wrong. But while I am acting for and in some things as the King's servant in matters of the greatest importance and in a conjuncture of danger and distraction, your lordship's disapprobation of my counsel and action cannot be so indifferent a thing but that I may be allowed to complain of my ill fortune, and wish your disapproval had been more confined or declared by a man of less credit. Your lordship professing it was not from intention to do me prejudice in the matter or manner of your advices and despatches and going now where they may have done me hurt without your purpose, I shall rest assured that you will as opportunity offers and justice may require, rectify those that may have mistaken your meaning. And so wishing you a happy voyage, I am etc.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, April 23, Dublin.—I received yours of the 15th late last night, and am just now to celebrate the day. It is not hard to guess by whom the injury concerning the grant supposed to be for the benefit of Fitzpatrick is set on; and since things of that nature are come in play, possibly I may be able to inform of some much less justifiable than that in question. About a week hence I may be better instructed, and I suppose that will be time enough, if the Parliament proceeds upon those discoveries and matters of greater consequence they have taken in hand. It is no less easy to guess whence the clamour against my Lord Primate proceeds. I am confident upon a fair hearing, which I do not doubt but he will have, he will be found to have administered justice very ably and uncorruptly.

I doubt it is not known or remembered there that in the time of my Lord Berkeley's Government there issued a proclamation to let all Papists at one blow into Corporations, and if Mr. Bridgeman be examined, he is able to tell at whose solicitation the letter commanding such a proclamation was procured. It may concern my Lord Chamberlain to look into this matter, if he was then Secretary. Upon this occasion the glut of Papists got into towns and cities, contrary, I think, to the intent of the Act of Parliament, which leaves a power in the Chief Governor and Council to admit some, which has not sparingly been exercised. For my towns, first there is none of them a sea-town; and whatever they are, nine parts of ten of the Papists that inhabit them are got in. We were hereupon looking into the matter before the Votes of the Lords came to

us, and we have received from most towns an account of the Popish inhabitants, and from some the number of Papists they desire should remain amongst them, as some principal traders and useful artificers. From Limerick, where my Lord of Orrery is Governor, and in a great part proprietor, we have got no return; which he excuses upon the death of the Mayor, who was one of those who were to make the inquiry and report. And if it be safe to say so, it is apparent that trade cannot be carried on in towns nor husbandry in the country without some Popish merchants, and very many Popish tenants, unless a large plantation of English of all sorts could be sent us, for which we would be very glad to make a double return of Irish Papists.

The matter of the Fast and Humiliation was not unthought of here, but the appointing of it and the manner of solemnization are peculiar prerogatives of the King, which we cannot find imparted to any Chief Governor. But I have sent to know His Majesty's pleasure about it, and expect a return very speedily.

This may give you some light what to answer to these things, and, to avoid repetition, it may be fit to give copies and extracts of it to our friends. My Lord Massereene tells me he does me justice upon all occasions; you shall do well to encourage him in it by civility and familiarity.

EARL OF ORRERY to ORMOND.

1679, April 25, Castlemartyr.—I have the honour of your Grace's letter of the 22nd instant. I am glad your Excellency is pleased to approve of what I did in quartering my Lord Dumbarton's regiment, and very sorry that the words in my letter to the magistrates for no quartering any but in inns, alehouses and victualling houses, without the consents of housekeepers (as being illegal), has offended your Excellency, which I humbly beg your Grace to believe is what I study to avoid and always shall do. The reasons which induced me to insert those words in those letters was not to put the magistrates in mind of their privileges (for I have often chid them for standing too strictly on them), but this new regiment has long served in countries where quartering in private houses has been constantly practised, I inserted that clause to prevent disputes between them and the magistrates, which I believed could only be that way done on such a sudden. Though at the same time I also writ to the magistrates and chief gentlemen to desire them to use their best endeavours to prevail with the people to quarter voluntarily the commissioned officers in private houses. But since your Excellency does not like that expression, I heartily wish I had omitted it, and I am sure it shall never again be inserted by me.

Though Mr. Upton, the Collector of Kinsale, was not obliged to pay a fortnight's pay to this new regiment till

after fifteen days' sight of the order to do so, yet he paid it on demand. And the other fortnight's pay charged at Youghal will be paid on the day, as Lieutenant-Colonel Monro tells me, who intends on Monday to go towards Dublin to wait on your Excellency. I foresee disputes will happen between the old captains of the army and the captains newly come, and therefore I beg your Excellency's pleasure for regulating all things may be signified. I here enclosed humbly present your Excellency the names of the field officers and captains of that regiment, and the places where they are quartered.

I am truly sensible of your Grace's great favour in your obliging orders for my wife's and my transportation to Bristol, and we both pay your Excellency our most humble acknowledgments for them. But since the time that I begged your Grace's leave to go to England (both for my wife's health and my own) I find by my English letters, especially in those which came by the last post, great preparations are made by the French; a considerable army is drawn to the sea side, and a fleet prepared to transport them. And what is written to private hands seems to incline men to think we of Ireland may have some, if not all, of that storm fall on us. I therefore judge it a conscientious duty in me not to stir hence until I know where the impression of the French will be made. And therefore, if it should be made on us, neither the posture we are in, nor my present distempers can make me hope to do any good service to my King and country, yet I resolve to suffer for my King and with my country. But, God willing, as soon as this threatening is over, I shall make use of your Grace's leave to go.

What I lately writ to my Lord Chancellor of Ireland (which I find he did show to your Excellency) is what my heart did dictate. I am one who abhors dissembling, and I faithfully assure your Grace that in what your Grace was pleased to write to me on your last arrival in Ireland, and on what my brother Burlington had written to me, I did not only rejoice to be restored to your favour, but assiduously endeavoured to have a title to it. That I am unfeignedly troubled when my own private judgment is so unfortunate as not to agree with your Excellency's in all public things: that even in those particulars wherein it is under that unhappiness, I have and still will (within my little sphere) contributed as much to advance your Excellency's public resolutions for His Majesty's service and the good of this kingdom as if they had been taken up on my humble advice: I believe beyond this your Excellency does not expect, and short of this I dare not go. I further beg your Excellency to believe that I have seen, and daily see, enough of this world to prefer retirement before the best stations in it; which is not only what my crazy health inclines me unto, but also what my reason and experience

does. And, therefore, what can I have in prospect worth contending for? So that nothing is more desirable, or indeed desired by me than to have a Chief Governor who has his whole temporal interest in that same vessel in which the temporal interest of the family I am of is embarked. That to live well with him, to get his kindness to me and my friends, and for me and my friends to entitle ourselves to it by all fitting services, is my earnest desire, as the obtaining it would be my great satisfaction. When I can meet with these particulars in a Chief Governor of Ireland, I am certain I shall in all the ways of honour court it. When I do not, I can retire into England, where I can live as well, if not more at my ease there than here.

I have in this written my heart without disguise to your Excellency, who will on due examination find me a plain but honest man. When I am in London I shall make it my proposal to rectify any mistakes which may have been run into on any of my letters to any of my friends there. What is more common than for men to be of different opinions how the same affairs may be best managed. But I still judge it the duty of an honest man (though he cannot change his belief) to help the declared resolutions of those that are in public authority. I will humbly beg your Grace's permission (for I write only to yourself) to say that at longer run you will possibly find me more your servant than you have believed. That possibly the number of your Grace's ill-wishers might have of late been increased had not the intentions of some been resisted by him who will make honour and justice the steady way he will walk in to his last step. And therefore I will presume, since it is for your Grace's advantage and service, humbly to lay before you the sad condition that those western counties of the kingdom are in. We have our militia with few arms, no powder, match or ball, and consequently not trained and consequently not much significance. I know the State wants money, and daily tell those who lament our condition—'pray propound a practical way to redress.' I humbly beseech your Grace that a competent proportion of arms and ammunition may be sent to Cork for this province, as the safest place nearest the centre of it, by those contractors who have brought in arms and ammunition to Dublin, whereby such as are able and willing to buy may supply themselves regularly out of it. For since no others but those contractors have had licences to bring in arms and ammunition, if they should not send them into all parts, whereby they are wholly unprovided, [we] may have this, in case of rebellion or invasion, objected against the Government by such as are not great friends to it.

I further take the confidence to mind your Excellency that in the honour of your letter to me (in which the Council joined) dated the 3rd of December, 1678, you were pleased

to let me know your Excellency's resolution of settling Governors in all counties. If such Governors were established with fit authority, and were pitched upon of quality, knowledge, interest, and constant residence in the counties, it might be of good use. For really, my Lord, I observe what is equally the business of many, seldom does any perform at all. If the militia were regimented, it might, I think, be very advantageous in many respects. But at present, as things are, who knows who is to command the militia of any county, or any part of it, should troops and companies of it be commanded on present service. Might it not be permissible that your Grace would write to two or three chief persons in every county to call the militia captains and officers together, and represent to them how necessary it is that their troops and companies be forthwith provided with ammunition, and with as many arms as they really want; and that they should let them know that they have your Grace's orders to make speedy returns of such as will comply herein, and of such as do not. And if to this they had leave to assure them that such as may need arms and ammunition for this end shall be repaid out of the first money granted by Parliament for the arming and defence of the kingdom, on certificate thereof from those whom your Excellency shall authorise to give it, I hope it might produce desirable effects.

I will not only beg, but also humbly hope for your pardon for this I write, since I do it out of present duty to my King, my country and your Grace, and because I would do the like were my own brother Lord Lieutenant. If this way of proceeding be acceptable to your Grace, I have many important things further to lay with all humility before you. But should such letters be otherwise considered, then from my soul, though I intend them for His Majesty's, the kingdom's and your Grace's good, and to stop the mouths of your Grace's enemies, I shall on the least notice never run again into the like honest folly.

ORMOND to VISCOUNT MASSEREENE.

1679, April 26, Dublin.—I received your Lordship's obliging letter of the 15th, when we were taken up with the divertisements and solemnity of the holidays, of which the 23rd made one. Without doubt there are few things more worthy of the consideration of the House of Lords than the condition of this kingdom, for it cannot be in disorder and danger but that it must proportionably affect England; and we have late experience how much blood and treasure it has cost England to preserve and reduce Ireland, when the hundredth part, seasonably and prudently employed, might have prevented all the calamities the Protestants underwent. God be thanked we are now in such a state

that we require nothing from England but leave and authority to secure ourselves, which perhaps hereafter will not do this work. I do not wonder that our proceedings here are misrepresented from hence and misunderstood in England. It is not possible that all men can be satisfied, or very easy to keep those that are not from instilling the public with their public discontents and disappointments. I know a man of your lordship's parts and acquaintance may do much in the satisfaction of satisfiable men; and though it be a justice to truth, yet it is no small obligation to me that you are pleased to take pains in it. As to the Bills transmitted, they are where they may be amended where they are amiss, and they are sure to come to receive a final conclusion where nothing shall pass hurtful to their interest who are to pass them. The King, I am sure, intends nothing by the Bill of quieting possessions but the safety of his good subjects and their satisfaction; and if that be not done to their mind in those Bills they have no more to do but to propose what may do it better. I conclude with thanking your lordship for your lordship's letter.

Copy.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, April 26, Whitehall.—Your Grace will by this post find the letter for Mr. Keating sent to be Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas: that for the removal of my Lord Chief Justice Booth is already with your Grace, so that there needeth no fresh letters.

I suppose your Grace did, upon the news of the reduction made in the Council of England, foresee that something of that nature would follow in Ireland. His Majesty hath commanded me to signify to your Grace that he will proceed in the same method there; and therefore doth expect from your Grace a list of the present Councillors, and likewise what those officers are that you judge fitting should be Privy Councillors by virtue of their places. His Majesty proposed the reducing the number of Privy Councillors in Ireland to twenty. I humbly offered my opinion that would be too little in respect several occasions did draw some members of them into this town always, which would leave few to supply the several Committees of Council the affairs of that kingdom require. However, I suppose there will be no resolution taken till His Majesty hath heard from your Grace.

To-morrow, though Sunday, the House of Commons have voted to sit, and great points are intimated: rules for the successive disorders of the Government in England, Ireland and Scotland, not without reflection upon the Governors of the two latter, though your Grace is not directly named.

In discourse to-day with my Lord of Essex concerning the accompt you sent up concerning the extraordinary

charges since your coming to the Government, he told me the Commissioners had observed that there was no account given of the concordatum money since your Grace's coming to the Government, and that in his time it was always sent up hither quarterly; and this, I suppose, they have wrote to your Grace, but, however, I thought it my duty to let you know it. My Lord Strafford hath oftentimes spoke to me to know whether you had not wrote to me in order to recommend him to a troop of horse, as he pleadeth your recommendation here. I told him I knew nothing of it, but should put your Grace in mind of it. Our affairs have been long dark and the mists arise hourly. When or how they will be dispelled I am not weatherwise enough to know. One thing I am sure will not change which is my being with all respect, etc.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, April 26, Dublin.—I have yours of the 19th, and read that of the same date to your Mother, also the long letter with much care; and yet I am not ready to frame any judgment, much less resolution, upon it. I think the case very ingeniously stated as to the public, and as to my particular I will take a few days time to consider, and then send my sense. In the meantime I think you should without affectation keep on the intercourse with the person you had a long discourse with. If he keeps his word and finds it not to be his interest not to be satisfied, I am confident he may receive satisfaction, and though he should be resolved against it, yet we are but where we were.

The Scotch regiment is landed, well quartered for their refreshment, and have received a month's pay. The difficulty will be how to continue this good treatment to them; but I will take all the care I can.

I have some confirmation of what you write at the end of your letter to your Mother concerning that nobleman not being my friend, but know no cause I have given but that I love myself better than him—a fault I cannot mend.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, April 26, London.—I shall direct my account to the passages of the Lords' House only, because the fulness of the Commons Votes will save me the labour of a comment, unless some passages relating to neither House shall occur to my knowledge, as the death of honest Davy Walter, who George Legge succeeds in the Lieutenancy of the Ordinance. I also enclose the King's Declaration, not trusting to the diligence of others to do it, because each part of it is worthy your Grace's view.

On Wednesday their Lordships wound themselves into a kind of labyrinth, coveting to secure England in general

from Popery, and the City of London from Papists, by expelling all (even tradesmen) out of it who should refuse the oaths and test. Till they were convinced that such a general banishment, by taking in all sorts of Protestant dissenters, would thereby shake the very trade of the City, such being so numerous in it, they found a great difficulty to winnow the one from the other; and the day being far spent, and no prospect of any expedient in the point, they adjourned the consideration, though I hear since the Quakers offer to set their hands and seals to an obligation of their obedience and declaration of their opinions in all these points, and will admit of it to be felony without clergy if any amongst them shall ever be detected of Popery. But how far that will amount towards satisfaction, until I see the proposal I cannot conjecture: a copy whereof I am promised, and shall enclose in my next letter after I receive it.

The same day my Lord Clare happened to express his dissatisfaction at an expression in the King's Declaration, whereby Prince Rupert is entitled to a seat in the new Privy Council, by virtue of being a Prince of the Blood: which his lordship observed was a language not so well understood in England, not being to be found in any law book or Act of Parliament, no not in the Statute itself that treats of honours, at that degree His Highness stands related to the King's person. But the new Lord President, having first anticipated what he apprehended the others might object, as if with his place his judgment should alter, assuring their Lordships his conscience should always guide his tongue, gave this answer:—It were unreasonable to deny the King the liberty of terming his near relations how he pleased, especially since it was both an intelligible appellation, and what did not entitle him to anything to the prejudice of anyone else. But my Lord of Strafford grafted a further objection upon that discourse, it being a French term of art, and of a large extent there; and that already the King's natural sons did greatly encroach on the ancient nobility by placing themselves above all others of the same classes. But this uneasy discourse to some who heard it, as it had the bad luck so abruptly to be begun, so had it the good luck to end quietly, neither being answered nor seconded by any, but fell of itself.

Thursday, the 24th.—Their Lordships were early invited by the Commons to a conference, at which Sir Francis Winnington reported the Commons' exceptions against the Popish Lords' answers (which your Grace may at large read in the Commons' Votes of that day) which, when reported to the House, their Lordships referred the consideration of the three Lords' evasive and argumentative answers (for so they are styled) to the Committee of Privileges, and ordered my Lord Bellasis to put in his the next morning. My lord's pen proved no fencer, his answer being a downright denial of

all he was charged with. This day Mr. Reading, the lawyer, came to his trial, when it was apparently found that he attempted to suborn Mr. Bedloe's testimony against the Tower Lords, for which he was adjudged to stand in the pillory, to undergo a year's imprisonment, and pay 1,000*l*. (a great punishment, and a great fault, and what seriously reflects on those Lords).

Friday, the 25th.—The Earl of Danby put in his answer at the Lords' Bar, in which, though he confidently asserted his innocency, yet was advised by his counsel also to plead his pardon, because else it could not be pleadable at any other time. What else he may lose time will show, but he gains the reputation of an excellent speaker: that is allowed him by his very enemies. After him they desired Lord Bellasis cross to the Bar with his answer; whose tongue proved his best member, who delivered a very satisfactory answer very satisfactorily: both which were immediately sent down by their Lordships to the Commons, as their Votes mention.

This day three Lords, Powis, Stafford and Arundel, appeared at the Bar, where they were told by my Lord Chancellor the character the Commons had given of their answers, who demanded of them whether they would put in new or abide by those. They sheltered their answers under the advices of their counsel, who informed them that they could not safely give a more direct answer to so general a charge. But if their Lordships would advise them to put in others, they would do so. My Lord Chancellor answered 'twas not their parts to advise, but to judge; only gave this advice that they should consult their own interest. At length my Lord [] surprised their Lordships by telling them that fencing would but weaken their credits with their judges, and exasperate their prosecutors; and therefore he had brought another answer with him, short and conformable to that method approved of in my Lord Petre's; whereupon the other two also produced and gave in theirs also, only craving the return of their former; which was granted, and the old ones were delivered back and the new ones sent down to the Commons. So that now it is presumed the trial will soon follow.

I am now to tell your Grace a tale without head or foot, and yet 'tis fit I should let your Grace know as much as I do of it. Mr. Oates today produced one Lane as a witness before the Lords of the Committee of Examination to prove the Earl of Danby offered him a reward if he would get Oates to withdraw his testimony. Lane, being asked, declared he knew no such thing. Mr. Oates his men were also called in, but instead of impeaching others fell to arraigning Mr. Oates himself, as one that had spoke the basest and most contemptible words of the King imaginable, as if he associated himself with none but whores, rogues, pimps and panders, and that Mr. Chiffinch was a pimp, the son of a pimp, and that the

King never went sober to bed, and thence proceeded to such beastly bawdy discourses that the Lords stopped his mouth and would hear him no further nor believe him so far. What will be the consequence of this must be the subject of future letters ; only I hear the King (as he hath just reason) is highly incensed at it. I confess I have not my story very perfect, though I have heard it from several of the Committee ; for seriously no one, methought, could make sense of it, and all differed in material circumstances.

Since I have little hope to obtain the Votes of this day time enough to send them by this night's post, for that House is now sitting to finish the Bill for disbanding the Army and it is already dark, I shall give your Grace the punctuallest account I can of those no small matters that have happened there this day. They began with a petition from several persons who had more French commodities on their hands than they could hope to make sale of by the 1st of May, the limited time for all such goods to be destroyed. They therefore craved a longer time to prevent their ruin, who could be no way guilty because they had the possession of them before there was any prospect of that act. But to show the indignation conceived against all things as well as persons of that nation, they not only rejected the petition, but also ordered the bringing in of a corroborating act, if the Committee to whom it was referred to examine that act should find it defective, and that by Friday next. Then came in a report from the Committee who were to scrutinise into the causes of the late London fires, that a maid servant had confessed that she fired her master's house by the persuasion of one Stubbs, my Lady Shrewsbury's butler, a Papist, and one who had prevailed with her to be so ; who being apprehended also, on promise of pardon, confessed that his father confessor, one Gilford, had obliged him both to get it done and to conceal it : telling him further that all those scaffolds in Westminster Hall were but a piece of pageantry, for that none of those Lords in the Tower should so much as come to trial, nor any of those condemned priests should suffer : that the King should yet be sent to death before the middle of June, and six thousand French immediately land, with several other particulars. Whereupon it was ordered that an Address should be presented to His Majesty, by the Privy Councillors of that House, for his pardon for the maid and Stubbs, and for a proclamation to proscribe Gilford and two other persons who had been active in the firing of London, and that there might be a promise of pardon to encourage such as should come in and make any discoveries of that nature. Then came a message from the Lords to inform them that the three Lords had been at their Bar, had withdrawn their former answers, and put in others they would abide by, which they were desired to peruse and to return with what speed they could conveniently.

They also ordered another Address to His Majesty that Pickering and all other condemned priests may be forthwith executed, and all other Papists banished ten (if not twenty, for I am not certain) miles out of London. This alarm is so hotly received in that House that though they are now sitting (and it is dark night) on the Money Bill for the disbanding of the Army, yet they have voted to sit tomorrow (tho Sunday) to consider how to provide for the safety of His Majesty's person and the established Protestant religion, both in the King's time and his successors: which the wise foresee will be a hot day, and 'tis feared will scorch Queen and Dukes. And where and how 'twill end God only knows, I dread to think. It is also whispered that impeachments are preparing for other Lords, but I will wish I may be a false prophet. The Votes of this day shall come with the next packet.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, April 26, London.—Considering the uncertainty of affairs, and how liable persons are to be displaced to serve those who are now looked upon to be able to assist in these extremities, and finding my Lord Marquess of Winchester pleased with his growing credit, I fell upon the discourse of the late attempt that had been made for your Staff, and by way of confidence gave him the detail of the whole matter, to find if he would be a person likely to purchase it, if you had upon a reasonable consideration a mind to part with it. I had my aim; for when I told him after many compliments the honour and advantage of that post, to which always a blue ribbon was annexed, he told me that if the King and you consented to put a bargain, he would give in ready money 10,000*l.*, but not more. As I assured him that what I said was without any knowledge or commission from you, so I would know your mind with all speed, and doubted not but to have either your negative answer, or to forbid me any such dealing, or else full power to treat and conclude. We have both promised secrecy until your pleasure be known, which I desire may be speedy; and according to your commands I shall endeavour to acquit myself to your satisfaction. I have nothing more to write at present.

SAME to SAME.

I am informed that my Lord Ranelagh is getting up articles to present to the House of Commons against you, upon which I acquainted the King of this proceeding; who seems very much incensed, and assured me that if it could be proved, or that if he could have grounds to believe that contrary to oaths that Lord held such practices he should not continue an hour in his place. I am put in hopes of having the articles, together with sufficient reason to persuade that he is the author of them. In this particular I

hope you will believe that I shall not be remiss. I have ordered Mulys to send a printed paper relating to transactions in Ireland, which I hope you will not dislike.

ORMOND to EARL OF ORRERY.

1679, April 29, Dublin.—I have no more time to write than will serve to assure your lordship that as I have great reason, so I really am much satisfied with your lordship's of the 26th of this month. What you write concerning the public is with great prudence, and in what concerns me in particular is very obliging. The ammunition and arms desired to be sent to Cork shall be sent to that port with all the speed that may be. It is most necessary that the militia should be regimented, and it shall forthwith be gone in hand with. The letter to the principal gentleman in each county is well worth and shall have due consideration, and your lordship shall have my thoughts more fully upon it by the next post.

If I am dissatisfied with any part of your lordship's letter, it is with that part of it in which you are pleased to excuse the freedom of your proposing [suggestions]. Whatever shall come from you to the ends you mention shall have no other interpretation from me than you shall be [fully satisfied with].

[This letter has been much injured by fire, and is in parts illegible.]

Copy.

EARL OF BURLINGTON to ORMOND.

1679, April 30, London.—I did hope that I should before this time have begun my journey towards Ireland; but the House of Peers are so stout on the point of permitting their members to stir from their attendance that they refuse everybody that asks leave, and resolve to imprison and fine every peer that shall not appear at the trial of the Lords, which moves so slowly that I doubt it will be near Midsummer before those trials will be finished. My Lord of Danby was this day at our Bar, who being acquainted that the Commons excepted against his plea of the King's pardon has been given time till Saturday to resolve whether he will adhere unto it or alter it. If he does the first, his life must depend upon the validity of it; for after that day he cannot change it. But if he pleads not guilty, then his innocency only must acquit him. The House of Commons, who sat on Sunday last, passed the Vote, a copy whereof I now send your Grace. To morrow it will be in our House debated, the Commons having desired our concurrence therein. The Bill for raising money to pay off and disband the Army will by the Commons this day be passed, and to morrow be sent up to us. If the weakness of my hand, which a fit of gout did lately render so, had not kept me from making use of it, I had sooner begged the honour of your Grace's commands,

which I do now with the assurance that nobody shall more punctually obey them.

Postscript.—I am very much obliged to your Grace for putting a stop to the Duke of Monmouth's patent till my right was heard.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, April 30, Dublin.—I do not remember any Session of Parliament held when I was out of England but that I was hotly alarmed by my friends of preparations and contrivances to accuse me ; and I have sometimes made voyages thither principally to prevent, or to be ready to answer anything that could be objected against me ; and it has fallen out that upon my arrival I have still been suffered to be quiet. I have now again the same informations, and I have at least as much reason to give credit to them as heretofore ; and if I were at liberty I would hasten over to defend my honour, innocence and conduct in the trusts that have been reposed in me as well as I could. I know the chief grounds of men's ill-will to me are malice, because I would not bear calumny and envy to the places I hold, which are motives that will never die or be at rest as long as the object remains. And I am now come to an age and inclination so fit for retirement that I would be content to purchase it at any rate but that of dishonour or prejudice to my fortune and family. Therefore, though I could with all imaginable cheerfulness and content lay this great and envied place at His Majesty's feet, from whose hands I received it, yet I cannot bring myself to offer it as a ransom or composition, but had rather undergo the strictest inquiry and trial of my actions. Thus you know my case and present disposition as well as I know it myself ; and it is now time you should know that my humble desire is that His Majesty would send me over a permission to attend upon him at Court in the usual form, which I think may be found in your office, that I may be at liberty to make use of it when I shall think fit ; that my son Ossory may be sent with it, and power given that he may remain Deputy in my absence ; or if His Majesty approves not of him in this conjuncture, that the Lord Chancellor and my son Arran may be Justices ; or in the last place, if His Majesty find reason not to appoint any of these, of whom I would not have proposed any if I could think of fitter, that he would direct into what other hands to put the Government, till he shall have resolved either to return me to it or where else to fit. I do not intend that whoever His Majesty shall place here in my absence shall be any addition of charge ; but am content that the usual allowance shall be taken out of my appointments. That which I would further desire is as much secrecy as the matter will bear, and a speedy signification of His Majesty's pleasure.

[Copy.]

SAME to SAME.

1679, April 30, Dublin.—Mr. Ryder and his partners are come to a fair agreement without bringing their difference to a public debate, which I think is all that is necessary to say in return to the letters he brought me from His Majesty, the then Lord Treasurer, and yourself. The state of their farm had been much better than it is if they had never fallen out, or agreed sooner; but as it is I am in hope they will continue to make their payments at least as well as they have done in the time of their disagreement among themselves, and if they do there will be no great reason to complain of them.

Copy.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, April 30, Dublin.—All the resolution I have ever been able to bring myself to as yet is to write the enclosed letter to Mr. Secretary Coventry. The copy is for you to show to my Lord Chamberlain and Sir Robert Southwell, and then to resolve when to make use of it, or whether at all or no: wherein I depend on Mr. Secretary's judgment and kindness as much as upon any man's. If anything be to be changed or added there may be time for it, if all the great things in hand shall take place of the concerns of this kingdom, as much less have usually done. Perhaps if my Lord of Shaftesbury or any other that may wish this Government in other hands saw how I am disposed in the matter it would do no hurt. But all is left to the determination of my friends. It was but last night that I knew Mr. Ryder would embark this morning, so that I had not time to write with all the care such an affair would require, nor now to say any more to you.

Copy.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, April 30, .—I think it would be a difficulty upon your Grace to write upon any subject and not to write all that the subject would bear. Your Grace's letter to Mr. Secretary is so full to the purpose that very little may be added to it, or subtracted from it, except in that one particular which refers to me; wherein upon the confidence of present circumstances I must presume to differ from your Grace's opinion, and humbly propose that my Lord Arran may be named single as Deputy, if my Lord of Ossory doth not come: against which there can be no other exception but his relation to your Grace. And if that be looked upon as an argument of any force, then it must follow that whosoever shall be named by your Grace will be disallowed there. So that your Grace doth upon very good considerations leave His Majesty to his own choice for Justices. But if

your Grace should think fit that my Lord Arran should have a colleague, perhaps my Lord Granard may be more acceptable, or free from exception, because he was once Justice, than many others. As to my own particular I must acknowledge that I have not the least inclination under the present juncture to appear more to the world than of necessity I must, unless it may be for your Grace's service. Pardon me, my Lord, that I do not understand the connexion of those words in the first line of your letter "and it hath so fallen out I have still been suffered to be quiet." I believe the transcriber hath omitted some words, which renders the meaning somewhat difficult.

Your Grace's letter to my Lord of Orrery is mightily obligate, and will certainly beget your Grace a whole volume of acknowledgments.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, April 30, Wednesday morning, the first day this letter was began, London.—We were all in an amaze, the King summoning first of all the Lords to come in their Robes, and then all the Commons to appear at the Lords' Bar, where all suspicions of at least a prorogation ended in an assurance of His Majesty's favour in the enclosed speeches. If one may infer the heart from the voice, theirs was very joyful, for I never yet heard so loud hums so often repeated as on the occasion of this speech, so that there was a great pause of silence necessitated between every paragraph. After their Lordships had voted their thanks and desired to have each speech printed, they proceeded on that long tedious *Habeas Corpus* Bill sent them up by the Commons, and most elaborately finished it before they rose. Then the weighty considerations of May Day, and a great greyhound match between the Duke of Albemarle and Sir Ralph Dutton, when the latter was the loser, and that the King had an inclination to see Windsor, convinced their Lordships to adjourn till Friday. The Commons (as the Votes of that day declare) happened thus to return their thanks. As soon as they were returned and the speeches reported, Mr. Bennett moved for thanks, and extraordinary ones, suitable to His Majesty's graciousness. Many were the competitors for the honour of seconding the motion; but at last stood up Mr. Sacheverell and cautioned them not to be over-hasty in giving thanks, for he had seen it repented for in the last Parliament when persons offered to propose anything different from what was thanked for, that their thanks were thrown in his face, and he upbraided with the thanks that had been given. Col. Titus seconded him, urged that the benefit ought to be well weighed, that the thanks of the House might the more justly be proportioned; he observed yet they had nothing but words, and they, like

clouds, often proved but air; that he had read a thanksgiving for rain, never for clouds, because they were often prorogued 'ere they distilled in showers, (I would I had a cipher) and therefore moved that the consideration of the speeches might be appointed for Monday; and so it was, as the Votes show.

As for Thursday, I have little to say of State affairs, the Votes speaking for the House of Commons, and the Lords not sitting. Yet that I may not leave an absolute blank on that day, I presume to give your Grace an account of Hampton Court Olympic, where the King honoured the pastimes with his presence, and thousands followed his example, so that the breadth of the paddock course was fain to be divided with stakes and ropes. The first match was made this time or month between Tom Cheeke and Sir Ralph Dutton. The latter was confined to his single dog *Hog* to run for 200*l.* next May Day, which was Thursday last, with any dog in England. *Hog* held sound till a week before he run, then had a cut on one toe, and a kind of boil on the other. Tom Cheeke agreed to 20*l.* forfeiture, but since the Duke of Albemarle laid 100*l.* of his dog *Smoker's* side against *Hog*, Tom Cheeke rather chose to pay his 20*l.* than hazard his 200*l.*, and after betted on Dutton's side. For though the main match was off, yet the second part of it was judged by the King to be run, and Dutton's lame dog was beaten five lengths. So that Tom Cheeke, who might have won two hundred guineas, lost forty; twenty he paid as forfeiture and twenty as bets; besides being laughed at sufficiently. The next match was run between a black bitch of Mr. Dutton's and a fallow dog of that excellent poet Ned Howard's, whose dog, having better feet than his verses, won his match. But in the third course a little bitch of Mr. Harvey's went by his goodly fallow dog, to the loss of many six to seven. After the match was over, the King coming that morning from Windsor, dined with the Duchess of Portsmouth at her house, called on the Marquess of Winchester at Teddington, and after crossing that [*illegible*] went a horseback through the park to avoid the dust, and met the Duchess on horseback also, with whom side by side he rode through Putney, and so entered his barge.

Friday, May 2.—The Lords were very intent on the Bill for banishing Papists ten miles out of London, on which a debate arose which cost much time whether the oaths and test should be tendered to all, or the oaths only. The arguments ran thus: the oaths are only snares to catch innocent Quakers in, through which dispensations would let all the nocent Papists escape, as appeared by several of those papers had been taken, and depositions also. But the sacredness of those oaths of supremacy and allegiance so inspired their champions that it was carried (and but by one vote)

that oaths and test should go together. Then came up from the Commons the disbanding Money Bill, swollen to so prodigious a bulk with the Commissioners' names that Sir John Trevor (the messenger or person to convey it) could scarce bear his burthen; but it being late and the Bill being long, its reading was adjourned till five in the afternoon; and then (contrary at least to custom, as your Grace well knows) they read it here over, dispensing with forms, because every day's delay cost the King between 1,200*l.* and 1,300*l.*; upon which thrifty account it claimed that extraordinary expedition in its dispatch. To the Votes I refer your Grace for the transactions of the Commons. The only warm debate was about a particular not taken notice of in the Votes of the day. The Committee appointed to examine what moneys were unpaid of the last tax, there being 50,000*l.* that was designed to pay for the clothes, but not till the army should be disbanded; the army not being disbanded, they exacting an account thereof, on examination it appeared it all went justly towards the disbanding that part of it which was already disbanded, notwithstanding that it was well employed. Yet because not strictly pursuant to the letter of the act, many would have reflected upon others, particularly on Mr. Kingdom, the Paymaster (as a member of the House), who found out an expedient to stop their mouths who were opened widest against him, by offering to advance 3,000*l.* on the security of the second payment of this new act, which would be enough to pay off all the common soldiers what is allowed them to carry them home, being ten a man, this not going either to pay for their clothes or quarters. Thus a little water well applied served to quench as fierce a flame as hath yet been kindled, to the great disappointment of those who designed to improve it further.

Wednesday, May 3.—The Earl of Danby appeared at the Lords' Bar to declare his election what plea to abide by, and gave this answer that he put in his first plea by the advice of all his counsel unanimously, and by their advice he chose to abide by it. But being asked further to declare what he meant by the first plea, answered he pleaded the King's pardon. Which answer of his, being reduced into writing, was sent down to the House of Commons, as also was the new Bill for banishing all Papists beyond ten miles out of London. A motion was made to send down to the Commons to know when they would be ready to proceed against the Lords in the Tower, but seeing the debate was like to prove long, and they to sit again in the afternoon, that debate was adjourned till Monday, and the House till the afternoon, as soon as they had finished and sent down their answer that they would sit in the afternoon as the Commons had desired.

When the Lords were met they finished the perusal of the Money Bill, only reserving some uneasy parts of it for debate on Monday ; as that no innkeeper or alehouse keeper shall be obliged any further to quarter soldiers than to treat [*illegible*] which is construed to extend to the standing forces, and if so who will quarter any ? The Commons (for I despair of having this evening Votes time enough to send by this post) as soon as they met fell on Lord Danby's plea, which had no more quarter given it than is designed for its author. It was called at best by many uncertain, and consequently insufficient ; but at last the debate was deferred till Monday. Then both Houses met at a conference desired by the Commons ; at which they gave in their reasons for disapproving the Lords' amendments, which when received both Houses adjourned till Monday.

I had like to have forgotten one pertinent circumstance happened this morning in the House of Commons. Sir John Trevor bringing in a Bill against Irish Cattle put the House into no small flame ; but at last it was deferred till Tuesday morning : more of which in my next, lest the post make more haste than I do. I have here enclosed, besides the Votes of four days, the King's and Chancellor's speech, and Sergeant Rigby's report of two confessions ; both which have gained great credit among us, and if true are very remarkable.

EARL OF ORBERRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 2, Castlemartyr.—I had last night the honour of your Excellency's letter of the 29th of April, and the great satisfaction to find in it that what I had presumed to write to your Grace in my letter of the 24th of last month (both as to what related to the public and as to my particular) had met with so favourable an acceptance from your Excellency. I am glad of it, and more than I can express ; for there are few things I more desire than to serve my King and country, and to have my poor endeavours therein relished by your Grace, whose favour (and, if I may presume to say, friendship) I am very ambitious of.

Had I had the honour at any time before your Excellency's last coming to the Government of this kingdom to have had one hour's discourse with you alone, I more than believe there would not have been the least misunderstanding of me ; for I will never knowingly step one foot out of the way I propose I will walk in. But I have written so amply on this subject by this post, to my Lord Chancellor, that I will not trouble your Grace with a repetition of it ; for I believe he will read to your Excellency what I have now writ to him. But if ever I have the happiness to wait on your Grace, I believe I may satisfy your Excellency that even whilst I was under your disfavour I have acted towards your

Grace as if I had been in your favour ; and I should not speak an untruth, tho I should write that hereof I have given very good evidences. Neither shall this be my way of proceeding only while your Grace is in the Government, but also should you be at any time out of it. For I resolve (let me have been never so much misunderstood) I will never act towards your Grace but as an honourable man and a gentleman.

I am very glad your Grace has ordered the ammunition and arms humbly desired for the militia of this county to be hastened to Cork, and that your Excellency will regiment the militia. I have given notice of both by an express to the Commissioners of Array, that they may tender your Grace their humble acknowledgments and get the officers to try them as soon as they land. Really, my Lord, there needs a course speedy and effectual to be taken to put the militia on a posture, and to ascertain who shall command them and take care to have them trained and ready usefully on any occasions, which I hope your Excellency will do. In your Excellency's choice of them if all necessary qualifications cannot be had, men must in reason be content with the best that may be had.

I doubt the other counties in this province are proportionably as deficient in arms and ammunition as the county of Cork is ; and, therefore, if as the same ship which brings a supply of both to Cork, there were also sent a proportion for the other counties, it might be a husbanding of time and expense. And possibly if none be sent but to the county of Cork, those in other counties might doubt they were not equally minded. Whatever is sent for the counties of Limerick, Clare and Kerry may, I think, be best sent to the city of Cork, it being the safest place near all the other three counties to which arms can be consigned.

I have so many letters of necessity to write with my own crazy hand by this post, that I must defer till the next some particulars which in obedience to the last part of the honour of your Grace's last letter I am preparing humbly to lay at your feet. Your Excellency's commands about the new regiments' captains is humbly begged ; for every day the old and the new captains of the regiment have discourse concerning it—I will not say disputes. Some of the new companies have by their officers let me know they have neither powder, match nor ball, and none of their arms are matchlocks. I have told them as soon as there is need they shall not want ; but I believe had they match ammunition as the other companies have, it might not be amiss.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 3, Dublin.—To the most important part of yours of the 26th of last month, my answer is that if His

Majesty will allow of it I am content to part with my Steward's place to my Lord Marquis of Winchester for ten thousand pounds ready money. The King may take what part he thinks fit in the contrivance of the exchange the more to oblige that lord, if he approves the exchange, as I hope he will. But if not the nobleman may be told that I am not willing to part with my staff. In case the bargain goes on it may with reason be proposed that my Lord of Winchester should over and above lay down what my allowance will come to at Midsummer next, which is the end of a quarter and which I will with all the arrears due to me assign to him. What that amounts to Sir Stephen Fox, upon sight of his account betwixt his cofferer and me, will soon compute. But if you find any great difficulty in this, I will stick to my arrears and stay till they shall be paid with others, and let the agreement go on. I think there needs no more formal demission than this from me; but if there should, I am ready to make it. If this bargain takes place, it will be fit for you to place the money in secure hands immediately, and such Sir Stephen Fox will help you to, if any man can: with whom you may advise whether it may not be remitted into Holland, and thus securely placed, so that it may at pleasure be taken out.

SAME to SAME.

1679, May 3.—I have received yours of the 26th of the last month, wherein you mention the treaty you have had with my Lord Marquis of Winchester touching my place of Lord Steward of His Majesty's Household; which I am content to resign to His Majesty, in case it shall be his good pleasure to give it to the said Lord Marquis.

Signed, ORMOND.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 3—I received yesterday your letters of the 23rd and 9th of the last month, and do think that in return to the objections made against Fitzpatrick's grant you can not do anything more prudent than to give instances of others of the same nature, especially if equal exceptions may be made against them. Therefore I hope you will send me them with all possible speed. My Lord Chamberlain remembers that the letter for permitting Papists into Corporations was got during his being Secretary, but when he was absent, and at his house at Euston. He has promised to inquire about all those concerns. If you could send me a computation of what you parted with upon the score of the settlement, as also a calculation of what your grants do amount unto, and this in good method, not doubting but your care will be such as nothing can be objected as to the truth of such a narrative, I think it will be very useful to

stop the mouths of such who exclaim against vast gifts, though obtained by the most legal ways and honest grounds, nothing being beyond an Act of Don: I have not anything more to trouble you withal; only I find my Lord of Derby very nasty as to giving his wife leave to make you a visit, which she desires above all things. But I did use all my endeavours herein to persuade his ill-natured and obstinate lordship.

ORMOND to EARL OF LONGFORD

1679, May 4, Dublin.—To that part of your letter of the 26th which concerns my Lord Treasurer and to the cypher I refer you to him. To something you writ to him in a former letter I have this to say, that I showed my Lord Chancellor that part of a private letter from Mr. Secretary to me which concerned his lordship to let him know how good a friend he had, and because I knew he would make very prudent and grateful use of it, as he has done. For in what he writ to my Lady Ranelagh it was not possible for her to guess with any probability from what hand he was informed of what was laid to his charge, and he was sure of your lordship's care.

If cabals against me are carried on at one and the same time at Whitehall and Westminster, and if I have the great lady and the zealous Protestants at once my enemies, what fence is there for it, and why should I wonder to find Papists and the worst of Protestants agree in their endeavour to destroy me? It has been my lot ever since I came into business, and I believe will be till I am out of it, and of the world too. When the actions of a man's life who has been in Government in difficult times are taken to pieces by a malicious observer, all the circumstances that can be taken against him singled and insisted, and those that make for him omitted, no doubt but he will be made a strange figure. And if he should be put to refute all that should be thus collected and thus scattered, he would find work enough and perhaps create himself more than he finds by drawing on replications and new calumnies; and all the while beat the air, as men do in the dark when they see no enemy. For against whom do I contend when I say to the first of the objections that your Lordship mentions, that there can nothing more false be invented than that any soldier was ever placed to guard a mass-house, or that there is one mass-house left unsuppressed in this city. I may be as well charged with sending a soldier to pull one of our own Bishops out of the pulpit and murdering him. If I were, would any man in his wits give credit to it, or were I in mine if I should go about to answer it? The second is true in some sense, but as false as the first in the scope and meaning of it. It is true a proclamation was issued against regular priests and Jesuits

to banish them. The word regular in the objection is left out, and so it falls out that some secular priests being apprehended, and neither within the Proclamation nor the late votes of the Lords on the old Address of Lords and Commons, were set at liberty. Here is no contradiction to the Proclamation, which is the thing suggested. It is true also that some regulars were permitted to stay, and they are not five in the whole Kingdom, at least I think so, and those are such as by reason of age and physical infirmity could not be transported, or such as would be worse used in any Popish country than the law can use them here, by reason of their declaring against the Pope's power with Peter Walsh, and to force such away would show more inhumanity than prudence. I wish we may never be questioned for banishing the King's subjects without law, and that some may not at one time or another say it is a dangerous example to trust the Government with judging when it may be done. But the best is I have the King's command by the advice of his Council in England, and the concurrence of his Council here for what I have done, as well for banishing them as permitting some of them to stay.

To the third it is hard to answer very particularly. For it is fourteen or fifteen years ago since not only the Protestants but the Papists were disarmed. But it is false that none of them obtained leave to carry arms. For what was the whole Army then but Protestants? What all the Council, the Justices of the Peace, the Magistrates in Corporations and all the Judges and Officers belonging to the Courts of Justice? And no one of them were disarmed, or if they were they had them soon restored. Let it be remembered that those arms were actually the King's, that Mr. Blood's Plot was on foot and brought near to execution, that during the sitting of the Commissioners of Claims it was fit to keep Papists and fanatics in peace by disarming both; and let it be remembered that I myself not long after set up the militia, consisting only of Protestants, and left them well modelled and armed, but found them now utterly broken. Upon the whole matter I shall be heard before I am condemned, or I shall not. If I am, it is all I ask. If I am not, the hurt may come to me, but the shame will belong to others.

Copy.

REV. CHRISTOPHER VOWELL* to EARL OF ORRERY.

1679, May 5, Kiltworge.—Before I come to the particular business which occasions the trouble of this letter to your Lordship, I would humbly beg leave to lay a few thoughts before your Lordship's eyes (which are ever open for the public good) as touching the state of the country here in

* Christopher Vowell, the writer of this letter, is described by Lord Orrery in a letter forwarding his communication to Ormond, dated May 6, 1679, as "a beneficed minister at and near Charleville."

this neighbourhood. 'Tis indeed very sad and calamitous, men's hearts generally failing them for fear, in expectation of those things which are coming upon the earth. And I wish that these fears and perplexities were built upon fancy and nothing else, that we may be more afraid than hurt. But when your lordship will be pleased to consider that there is scarce a night but that some house, stable or barn is broke up, that the Irish gentlemen swarm now more than ever, that not one jot of their presumption or confidence is abated: if these premisses be duly considered certainly this conclusion will easily follow that all these bold villainies are but the prologue to a future intended tragedy, but the shaking of the dice in order to throw at all, even our lives and fortunes. But I do but trouble your lordship in representing that after an ill manner which without doubt you have had from better hands after a more large and ample fashion. God awaken the magistrates who sit at helm and give them a due prospect of the rocks and shelves before the bark be split and the poor passengers committed to their charge be lost amidst this much to be feared tempest.

The particular business of this paper is about Henaghan, who is secured by Captain FitzGerald. His design was to get a pardon, that so he might be placed in a capacity for doing more mischief in this country, and in order thereunto procured a certificate from Sir Richard Kyrle and Captain Wills, worthy gentlemen, good patriots and sworn justices, and therefore cannot be supposed to forget their own honour, and their obligation to God and their country so far as to do what he there charges them with, to sign a certificate so very prejudicial to the King's subjects. I shall trouble your lordship no further about this business because the certificate itself, his letter for the same, with the petition, is sent your lordship by Captain Wanman. Only this one thing I thought fit to intimate to your lordship, that this Henaghan was in London at the time of Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey's murder, that he left London immediately upon the proclamation which issued forth for detection, that in all probability he was acquainted with those Irish priests, Munster men, who committed that black deed, that he is a stiff Papist and very great profligate, and so must be supposed fit to receive an impression were the thing opened to him. And if so be that he knew anything of the matter, it's probable that were his chamber searched in Dublin some papers might be found referring to that subject or of some other good use to the public. There is one Edward Bowerman in the College who knows his room and may direct thither; so that, if expedition were used, I am persuaded something might be found out of concernment.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 5, Whitehall.—I have your Grace's of the 26th of April, and humbly thank you for it. As to the part of

the Judges I have not mentioned it to His Majesty, because I would first expect your Grace's return to mine of the 26th of April, which told you of the letter signed for Chief Justice Booth and Mr. Keating; for I find much expedition in this case hath hindered the conclusion, I having obtained the letter for Mr. Keating upon your Grace's letter the post before this, viz., the 7th of April.

For the letter I received from your Grace and the Council concerning publishing a General Fast conformable to what was by proclamation here, you have free leave to do it. I have been asked a question whether your Grace had given leave to all Protestants to arm themselves. I answered I was sure you had given leave to all the militia; further I knew not, neither have I any order to give your Grace in it, only to desire you would please to give me notice what Protestants have permission to arm themselves, and who are forbidden.

I am likewise advertised this last week that there were freighted from Rotterdam by one Mr. Washington, an English merchant, four thousand arms for Ireland by commission from one Mr. Lewis. Your Grace will be pleased to inquire whether these arms be provided by merchants commissioned by your Grace or no, and where landed, and upon whose accounts. I will not trouble your Grace with what passeth here, you will have it particularly sent you.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 6, Dublin.—I am something doubtful that the principal person you may depend upon for discovery of the practice against me in framing of the articles you mention in yours of the 29th of the last will not be held a good author if the proof shall rest upon his single credit and assertion. Nor am I very confident that he may gather up loose discourses and old materials of the late Earl of Meath's articles and Peter Talbot's *quæres*, and tell us they are framed into accusations to set a value upon his own industry and zeal, not without hope of reward. I confess my nature and some experience of such a sort of men do incline me to such suspicions. Yet since such are more like to make discoveries who are busy in all corners and companies I would not have informations from them utterly rejected but warily managed, since it is certain that a complaint made upon unconvincing grounds rather establishes than weakens the party complained of. I have no more to say at this time.

Copy.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, May 6, London.—Your Grace will by this night's packet receive an account of some discourse Mr. Secretary Coventry had with my Lord President of the Council concerning the arming of all the English there, the general

liberty whereof his lordship says is restrained there. I imagine his lordship means by it those licences granted to merchants for importing of arms, which were recalled upon the proposition of the officers of the Ordinance there to furnish that kingdom with arms.

Yesterday the House of Commons by message acquainted the Lords that they were ready with their evidence for the trial of the Popish Lords in the Tower, and this day their Lordships have appointed this day sennight for their trial. The Commons upon the debate of my Lord Danby's last answer, wherein he insisted upon his pardon, voted the pardon in their opinion void and invalid, and that it ought not to bar justice against him upon the impeachment of the House of Commons. And they further voted that the whole House with their Speaker should attend the Lords, and at their Bar demand judgment of their Lordships against the Earl of Danby, whose pardon they thought void and invalid and ought not to bar their justice against him upon their impeachment, which was accordingly put in execution; upon which their Lordships referred it to the Judges to give their opinion to their Lordships this day upon the validity of the pardon. In order to which Sir William Ellis, Sir Francis Pemberton, and Mr. Serjeant Raman were sworn in the afternoon to qualify them to give their opinion in this matter. But I have not heard that the Judges have declared themselves yet in the point. Upon discourse with Mr. Attorney-General, he is of opinion that the pardon is void. The aforesaid three Judges have accepted of their Commissions during pleasure.

This day the House of Commons have voted an address to His Majesty for the removal of my Lord Duke Lauderdale from his person and councils. In defence of His Grace, Sir Hugh Cholmondley made a speech very reflective on His Majesty, for which, though he received no public rebuke from the House and was answered by none but Mr. Secretary Coventry, yet I find the generality of the House were not pleased with it. The debate concerning the succession lies without a day, and by some very understanding men of the House I am told much of the heat of that matter is blown over. My Lord Russell by command from His Majesty yesterday acquainted the House that His Majesty would give speedy order for the execution of Pickering, and that by reason of the approaching hot season His Majesty desired them to despatch the matters of public concern, and particularly a provision for the fleet which was the public security of the nation; which being provided for, His Majesty would not desire any further supply this session. I was in good hope by this packet to be able to give your Grace an account of the new articles your enemies are preparing against you, but my friend has excused himself for a day or two longer, and by Saturday's packet I hope to be able

to send them to your Grace. For the rest I must refer your Grace to my Lord Arran.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, May 6, London.—Yesterday the Lords began with the Disbanding Money Bill, and tho' the importance of it quickened their zeal for its despatch, yet 'twas thought providence to give it so much delay as these two amendments would require :—1. That College and Hospital Trustees should be exempt by particular exceptions out of that general provision made for tenants that the landlords should sustain the burthen of this tax. Secondly, That since both the consequence and danger of Jersey and Guernsey were so great that the provision thereof might be suitable, one thousand men might escape disbanding to reinforce those considerable islands at least till a fleet should be set forth competent for the safety of the whole seas. But before these exceptions could be licked into shape and method an interruption came up from the House of Commons to desire the continuance of their Lordships sitting, because the Commons had somewhat of importance to impart to them. But because their designs were so indefinite some exceptions were taken. However, the answer returned was that they would sit a competent time, though 'twas pretty late. Soon after came up the Speaker, with his mace before and the whole body of members after, to the Lord's Bar, where they demanded judgment in the name of the whole Commons of England against Thomas, Earl of Danby, for that the pardon by him pleaded was illegal and void. This at the very first sight gave great umbrage to most of the Lords, it being in some sort an invading of their jurisdiction, it being to give a final judgment in the case of an appeal depending before their Lordships, and was concluded by all an unmethodical way of proceeding. Yet for calmness' sake the debate was adjourned till next morning, and the House till five that afternoon, for the despatch safe of the Money Bill for the disbanding.

For the several gradations of the Commons in their proceedings against the Earl of Danby, the enclosed Votes are particularly accountable; against whom the indisposition of that House seems so severe that it is apprehended by many and owned by some of that House that, unless they may be gratified in his condemnation, nor Fleet nor Plot shall be considered. Thus that case seems to be stated this Monday noon.

That bill in the Votes for the better attendance for members to sit in Parliament needs this explanation. It is a self denying bill that no member that shall for the future be elected to sit in Parliament, or now sitting shall be capable of any Court employment on forfeiture of his seat there, a new writ being immediately to issue forth for another to be

elected in his room ; and this is meant by " For the better attendance, etc."

The King's message to the Commons, with his gracious promise to ask no more money this sessions, on the condition they would in providing a good fleet provide for their own safety, and resigning up Pickering to execution, with the reason for reserving the rest of the condemned priests, was all abundantly satisfactory ; convincing the hardest hearts how tenderly His Majesty is concerned to preserve a right understanding. Yet still the consideration of the speeches, and consequently giving thanks, is deferred.

This day the Lords began with debate whether the Bishops should have votes in the case of my Lord Danby's pardon, because by consequence it might relate to Blood ; because since he hath pleaded his pardon, if it holds not good, attainder is presumed to be the consequence. After some hours' debate a message from the Commons gave interruption, to acquaint their Lordships that they were ready to make good their charge against the Lords in the Tower. The natural question was what day should be appointed for their trial ; yet other debates fell in, as whether they or the Earl of Danby should be first tried. At last it was over-ruled that the first question should be put concerning the trial of the five Lords. The competition was this day sennight or fortnight. It was resolved that the five Lords in the Tower shall come to their trials this day sennight. And it was afterwards resolved that the Earl of Danby shall have notice to make good his pardon next Saturday in Westminster Hall, and that the Commons have notice also. I shall not repeat the numerous foreign motions that were made, but all ended in what I have wrote.

I shall repeat little of what the Commons did, because the Votes are full ; only add that Sir Richard Grimes (or Graham) first moved for the address against my Lord Lauderdale, and that only three spoke for him, Mr. Denehey, Sir Hugh Cholmeley, and my Lord Hunting-Tower. The latter gained great applause for a speaker, but not for a convincer, gaining no proselytes ; nor could an angel as the case stands. We shall now quickly have (one way or other) an end of these Lords who have lain so heavy on our hands all this while, and then have cause to hope we shall move more nimbly.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May , Dublin.—Since my right hand was disabled by the gout, I have not so much regretted the want of the use of it as now, when by it I should congratulate the Duke's return to his proper place and station. My heart is as full of joy, as it was with sorrow ; and since His Royal Highness is returned with safety, I think the testimony he has given the world of what he is ready to do and hazard for the King

his brother's service and his country's peace, is worth the discomforts and inconveniences he has undergone by the separation. There seems to be a sort of people so unreasonable and so wicked that will be satisfied with nothing but his being out of the world, or in it with dishonour. I hope they are the least numerous and least considerable. However, there seems to me nothing for him to do but to maintain his post, which that he may long do in all prosperity and happiness is my hearty prayer.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 6.—I had not writ this post unto you had I not received your letter of the 30th of April, which Mr. Ryder brought me this evening, having not anything to impart unto you relating to those concerns in which you are most interested, and those of what relates to the proceedings in Parliament being sent you by other hands, there is no haste requisite for delivering your letters either to Mr. Secretary or Sir Robert Southwell. By the next post I shall give you an account, I hope satisfactory, as to what I shall do. In the meantime I shall only tell you that I cannot find out any design of removing you presently from the post you are in. The noise of such purposes have, I am told, prejudiced others, but not you. It is not improbable but a rupture may happen among the men now in affairs. I pray God in these changes the King may find his account. I do not perceive that my Lord of Shaftesbury grows in credit since his being a Councillor, or that since his dignity he gains much with his own or that which ill men call the Court Party. I write this freely, not valuing much his lordship's good graces.

SAME to SAME.

1679, May 7.—The news of a rising in Scotland came hither this forenoon by an express. We are impatient to hear how they have proceeded. The rebels have affronted some of His Majesty's troops, and being sixteen hundred strong it may reasonably be feared that this beginning may have ill consequences and may reach even England and Ireland. Upon discourse with the King, I find he thinks it will be necessary for me immediately to attend you if this eruption be not suppressed, and that in order to serve either in my station there or else to carry over forces for suppressing that commotion. This is but the first thoughts, which, however they may hereafter be altered or digested, I thought it my duty to give you an account of them, that you may bethink yourself what to do in case of extremities. I doubt not but you will have an eye upon those parts nearest to Scotland, for if this be a framed design it certainly will reach all places where those fanatics are anyways numerous. I

am commanded by the King to let you know the deduction of a shilling in the pound should continue as was the custom out of the pay of the men in the regiment that was lately my Lord of Dumbarton's.

ORMOND to EARL OF BURLINGTON.

1679, May 7, Dublin.—I am very glad you are restored to the use of your hands, and though you may employ them better than in writing to a person that can make you no return but the acknowledgment of his favour, yet your letters cannot be more welcome to any man than to me. Cary Dillon has made so many compelled retrenchments of the Duke of Monmouth's grant, that what remains will not, I think, be worth His Grace's passing the patent. I am sure a knowing man told me it would not come to 200*l.* a year, composed of many miserable scraps. The Lords have certainly great reason to draw all the assistance they can gather from their own body, and to part with as little as they can. The things under their deliberation and judgment are of the greatest consequence to the Crown, to the nation, and to their own honour and security, I mean as they are a House of Peers. I pray with the Litany, whilst it is the fashion, that God would send you all grace, wisdom and understanding. I should have been glad the public would have permitted your lordship looking upon your private concerns in this kingdom. I might then have had the satisfaction of telling you oftener, tho' not more truly, that I am, etc.

Copy.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, May 10, London.—These four following days have been busy ones. May 7, the Lord President began with some motions and complaints relating to Ireland, particularly that merchants might have liberty to carry over arms to make sale of, provided 'twas to none but Protestants, supposing them disarmed, and that this would be the cheapest way to furnish them. But it appearing impracticable that these merchants could discriminate between Papists and Protestants (tho' many merely imaginary expedients were proposed) it came to nothing. Then my Lord Huntington, in a set elaborate speech, brought the Bishops on the stage again in relation to the Earl of Danby's plea of his pardon, whether or no they were to have votes as to its validity, being (after a manner) in the case of Blood; for if his pardon should prove not good, then he had confessed his guilt of what he is accused. This was not the first time it had been argued, and with mutual heat and ardency; but the Bishops and their cause found so many champions that my Lord President himself moved to have the debate adjourned *sine die*. The King then took notice to many of that House, particularly to my Lord Wharton, of that barbarous murder

of the Archbishop of St. Andrews, who going from Edinburgh to his own house in his coach and six horses, only in company with his daughter, and singly attended by one footman, a dozen of the Conventiclers overtook his coach some two or three miles from his own house, discharged several pistols into the coach, shot him, after dragged him out of the coach, and in the sight of his daughter barbarously murdered him, giving eight mortal wounds. The King expressed great indignation against both the assassins and their faction, of whom we since hear two are taken.

I shall only add to the Votes an account how the Commons came to resolve to sit on Sunday. It was on the motion of Mr. Luson Gore [Leveson Gower] that all the time was so spent on lesser affairs that the main chance was most neglected,—the safety of the King's person and the Protestant religion during his reign and his successor's. 'Tis true there was a zealous vote passed Sunday was se'nnight for a bill to be brought in to banish the Papists, and next morning was delivered accordingly, and had ever since lay still on the table, as if that which indeed was our greatest was our least concern. And, therefore, since all other days were anticipated by appointments, he moved Sunday next might be appointed to that important consideration. This speech set many's zealous tinder on fire. Some guided theirs against the evil ministers, others against the evil principles imbibed at Court. Others excused both in comparison of the ill ones of the other sex, urging Samson's being betrayed by his Delilah, and Solomon outwitted by strange women, and that no good could be expected whilst the French interest and the Popish both were centred in one person (which some did not stick to name), and she admitted a place in the King's bosom. From these premisses was drawn the conclusion of that Sunday sitting vote.

Thursday, the 8th.—The Lords received the Earl of Danby's petition for an order for his counsel to plead for him, without which they pretended they durst not do it; which they granted accordingly. A petition also came in from the other five imprisoned Lords for a week's longer delay of their trial by reason of the remoteness of their witnesses; but that was denied them. Then at a conference the Commons gave in their exceptions against the Lords' amendments of the *Habeas Corpus* Bill (which I also enclose), and at another conference the Commons desired (according to Sir Thomas Clarges' report) that a Select Committee of theirs might join with one of the Lords for adjusting the methods in order to the Lords' trials. This cost a long and late debate. In conclusion, the Lords were so tender of admitting anything that might look like letting in the Commons to any shadow of judicature that (by half in half) it was carried in the negative, and so adjourned till the afternoon, then only receiving the *Habeas Corpus* Bill.

That address concerning Duke Lauderdale is long and a very harsh style, but if I can transcribe it it, shall also be enclosed; but many of the members were very bold with His Grace.

Friday, May 9.—The Lords began with a conference at which they signified to the Commons that, rather than delay the Money Bill, they would recede from their amendments, so that the Bill was forthwith brought up to the Lords' Bar, with a Bill for the payment of Sir Francis Drake's debts, and there passed by His Majesty. Then their Lordships at another conference told the Commons they could not agree to join a Bill of theirs with one of the Commons in a matter of judicature without injury to themselves, being the Supreme Court of Judicature. The rest of the morning spent about the *Habeas Corpus* Bill, which they adjourned to the afternoon and then finished.

The Commons were much dissatisfied at one passage of their Speaker, whose ignorance pleaded his excuse. As soon as the Black Rod appeared to summon them and their Money Bill up to the Lords' Bar, without orders the Speaker whipped out of the Chair, took up the two bills as they lay upon the table, and away he goes with them, not minding the many calls on him to return back to the Chair, where 'tis said he very dully delivered a very dull speech (but as long as its subject was money, it was taken well enough with all its faults). At his return Mr. Sacheverell, as I take it, moved he might be sent to the Tower, and the train took till it had like to have blown him up. But it being considered rather as an error of weakness than wilfulness was remitted; but it occasioned that order for a Committee to inspect precedents in such cases. When the Commons met in the afternoon, they were much nettled at the Lords' refusal to join a Committee with theirs on that subject to methodise the trials, whence followed those sharp votes.

This day the Earl of Danby came to my Lord Great Chamberlain's chamber, by the Prince's lodgings, expecting his trial, whence he sent in his petition, humbly complaining to their lordships that all his counsel had left him, being so awed by the Commons' votes the night before that he could not prevail with them so much as to come to Westminster. He besought their lordships to consider his condition: matter of law was to be argued for his life, and no lawyer durst argue for him. At a conference the Lords communicated it to the Commons. And at a conference the Commons also pressed the necessity of having all methods adjusted by a Committee of both Houses in order to the trials. This was largely debated in a full House, consisting of ninety temporal and sixteen spiritual Lords, in which were strange kinds of divisions of all sorts. At last the question was put whether they would allow such a Committee. It was carried not to allow by two votes, 54 and

52. Then the proxies were called. They were but four (for no lord who hath not taken the oaths and test could make a proxy), and then it was carried the same way by two, one for agreeing with the Commons, and three for not agreeing. The winning side seemed most distrustful before the question was put, and the losers as confident.

The Commons' Votes mention a late fire that thus happened at a house called the New Prison at Clerkenwell, to which amongst many others a priest happened to be committed, who 'tis thought set his own chamber on fire on purpose. For it first took at the wainscot, and after he might have come out of his chamber, nay was called upon to do it, but obstinately refused, and as it is believed burned himself a martyr. It burnt down the house and the two next to it, when great mercy and diligence stopped it. It is said that the turnkey to that gaol was a Papist, that he opened all the doors, set all prisoners at liberty, and is fled. This is the truest account I can yet learn.

That passage that mentions Charles Bertie was on this account. The Committee of the Commons found several sums charged on his name under the notion of secret service. These sums he was required to give an account for. His answer was they were received by His Majesty's special order, and paid out by the same authority, and he had accounted for them to His Majesty and had his discharge, and now could not recollect the particulars, nor durst he if he could without His Majesty's special order. For this he stands committed. The great reasons for this inquisitiveness were these two:—1. To discover who were pensioners last Parliament, and members. 2. What sums fell to my Lord Danby's share; though Charles Bertie offers to clear the latter on his oath, and cannot accuse the former.

Just now, being past 9 at night, the Lords have agreed to sit to-morrow (though Sunday) as well as the Commons, in order to a free Conference to adjust all methods and ceremonies for the trials of the Lords, but restrained their managers from admitting any debate in points of judicature.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE to ORMOND.

1679, May 10, London.—I received by last post from my brother an account of some discourse he had with your Grace upon the late changes happened here, and upon some talked of there, whereof I can give your Grace no certainty, nor do I believe any deliberations have yet been upon them. I remember it was once mentioned to make a reduction of the great numbers of Councillors there, or some new constitution like what has been done here; and this being then fresh, the King and several of his Privy Council seemed inclined to it. But the affairs of the Parliament having taken up all thoughts here since that time, have I doubt left them none either for Ireland or foreign matters, how necessary

soever. I confess when that about the Council in Ireland was mentioned I was not in my own opinion determined whether it was a thing very important to the King's service there, considering how much [*illegible*] those affairs (which are things of great moment) are to receive from the Privy Council here. And on the other side I know not how such a constitution could be made, if it should fall into the debate of a numerous Committee of the Council here. Therefore I believe if your Grace should think it necessary, you were best able to make the digestion of it and submit your thoughts upon it to His Majesty, who might that way easiest fix a resolution then regarding debates here.

I suppose what my brother speaks about calling a Parliament there is a matter likewise the best to be advised from thence. At least I am sure all that relates to that kingdom is so much out of my head that I am a very ill judge of it; and for that as well as some other particular reasons I took care to have my name excused in the list of that Committee of Council where it was upon the first naming. But I shall never desire to excuse myself upon any occasions of your Grace's service, nor obey any commands with greater satisfaction, and my brother may at any time transmit them to me without the trouble he tells me you were pleased to think of giving yourself. For the rest I will assure your Grace that since I writ last to you from the Hague, I have ever continued the same designs of ending all public thoughts, having never found pleasure in them further than I could propose to myself some great public end, which since that period I have ever despaired of. In whatever condition or place I happen to pass the rest of my life I beg your Grace to believe that I shall be ever with the same true and constant passion what I have been so long, etc., etc.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ORMEY.

1679, May 10, Dublin.—I shall only at this time say to the last of the proposals in order to the calling of a Parliament, which only can provide effectually for the present and future security of this kingdom, that I have very frequently importuned the Ministers of State in England to hasten the calling of one. But things nearer home have come so thick and cross upon them that I do not wonder their own concerns took up all their time and thoughts. My despatches concerning this particular lie still before the King, and those who have succeeded in the management of affairs, and they are by every post told they do so; yet no return is made . . . *

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 11, Dublin.—I have yours of the 3rd and 6th, and in one of the former date from my Lord Longford I had the queries relating to my vast gettings, small estate before

* The greater part of this letter has been rendered illegible by fire.

the Rebellion and miscarriage since, which it was not hard to find. For they are of at least ten years' standing, and many of them composed by Peter Talbot, titular Archbishop of Dublin, now prisoner in this Castle. So that whoever brought them is not to value himself upon the service. It were of use to have any new objections, if there are any such really framed, as I much suspect there are not ; unless he that brought the queries composes them himself and would have them pass for the work of some dangerous engineers. I wish he may be pressed to produce them, yet not so as that he should doubt he is suspected. For it is safer as the world goes to anger twenty quiet honest men than one busy knave that cares not what he says or swears. I have such computations as you desire, but I am not of opinion they should be exposed in answer to libels or to stop mouths, because it will not do this work, but draw on replies and rejoinders fruitless and endless.

Copy.

EARL OF BURLINGTON to ORMOND.

1679, May 13, London.—The honour of your Grace's letter of the 7th of May I last night received, and am clearly of your Grace's opinion that the part of the Litany you mention is a most requisite prayer for us now to use. Our sitting on Sunday (a day much fitter for other duties) did produce an accommodation between the Commons and us (when things flew very high), and I now believe the trial about the imprisoned Lords will soon begin ; but whether in the first place with my Lord of Danby or the other five is a question, and by them believed of importance ; since my Lord of Danby's friends would gladly have him the last, and those who are concerned for the other five desire his may be the first, which I am sure it will be. In the opinion of many very able men he has pitched upon a plea of very great hazard, the legality or illegality of the pardon being the point that must either acquit or condemn him.

What the Commons did on Sunday the enclosed will inform your Grace ; which though you may perhaps receive from other hands I have adventured to send your Grace, who will I believe find that in some particulars all men are not of one mind. Yesterday the Bill for the trial of Peers was at a Committee of the whole House passed, and ordered to be engrossed. It provided that at the trial of any peer for the future fifty-one peers sh^d all be returned, that forty-five at least of that number shall appear, and that it may be lawful for the prisoner to except against twelve, the major part of the remaining number being to clear or cast him.

There are almost every second night attempts to fire houses, which very often succeed, and infinitely enrage the people here against the Papists, whom they look upon as the promoters of this design, those that are taken proving to be of that profession.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 13.—Last night I received your letters of the 3rd and 6th of this month. The first related to the affairs of my Lord Marquis of Winchester, of which I cannot yet give you an account, my intention being to deal cautiously and with advice for several reasons. To your last relating to discourses of accusations, I am confident my Lord of Shaftesbury does all he can, and employs Thornhill and one Mansel that was cashiered in Ireland. St. Leger this morning told me of libellous queries in the hand of the former, and will endeavour to get me a sight of them. I will use my endeavours to get such a discovery of this fellow's practice as to have him punished, which consequently may concern others also. I intend to deliver Mr. Secretary your letter, and to conjure him neither to make use of it, nor to let it be known. My Lord of Longford having communicated to him the scope of that letter upon occasion of a letter my Lord Chancellor writ about himself in that concern, I thought he might suspect our confidence in him if we should conceal our intentions, though our purpose be changed, as will appear, I believe, reasonable unto you by Sir Robert Southwell's last letter writ by my Lord Chamberlain's and my advice.

I did buy a picture for you of Mr. Van Hill, who printed the paper concerning your transactions since the Plot. I took that occasion to qualify him, rather than give him dry money. Fifty guineas I gave him. They say it is touched by Vandyke. The history is King Solomon, and I will send it by the first opportunity.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1679, May 13, St. James's Square.—Whither the designs that have been on foot, and our fears upon that account, may carry us it is impossible to foresee: time only can discover. The House of Commons on Sunday last went so high as to vote that a bill should be brought in to disable the Duke of York from coming to the Crown. The foundation of this vote had been laid the Sunday before by that of declaring that the Duke's being a Papist and the hopes of his coming such to the Crown had been the great occasion of the Plot, and was now improved by an abstract of so much of Coleman's letters as related to his Highness being reported to the House. The harshness of this vote to the royal family was alloyed by another of resolving to defend the King's person and the Protestant religion with their lives and fortunes; and that if His Majesty should come to a violent death (which God forbid) they would revenge it to the utmost upon the Papists.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 13.—If I part with my Steward's place and shall be removed from this, it is not like I shall have much joy or

security in living in this kingdom, or perhaps at London. And you know though I should have occasion to be there your mother cannot in the winter season. You may therefore inquire out a convenient retreat for her anywhere within ten mile about London, so it be up the river. In this case my family will be so much lessened that a reasonable house will serve us both (I mean my wife and I). You may make this inquiry on pretence of taking it for yourself and your children to retire in the heat of the season, or upon any other occasion, without naming your mother or me. This affair need not make more haste than this bearer will make. His under officer would not stay but upon such terms as, if allowed to him, would by the example have brought great disorder into the stables.

A—— B—— to ORMOND.

1679, May 13, Wandsworth.—The Revolutions since '67 have appeared to me and my thinking friends the inevitable consequences of my old Lord's banishment; not that we were so partial as to believe that if he had died in '66 his place might not have been supplied to all purposes, and the Government continued steady. But the House of Commons debauched by Committee to serve that turn were never afterwards true to their trust, and a new method of retaining pensioners dissolved the very essence of that assembly, who represented not those that chose them, but those that fed them. Happily were they dissolved, though the violence of their successors gives not any hope of a speedy composure. Such of them as come to me (for I rarely go to London) say moderate proceedings can bring no remedy, pretending from private papers to have found the design so laid that it may be yet carried on, if not stopped by these extraordinary severe courses. The particulars I dare not mention, save what is public, that His Royal Highness did assure the Pope upon his arrival to the Crown he would extirpate the Protestant religion in these three kingdoms, and he did obtain a pardon from Rome for marrying his daughter to the Prince of Orange. In the debate Sir William Coventry very dexterously interposed "Before any man can speak clearly it is necessary to know whether you intend after the decease of the King without issue to drive the Government to a Commonwealth, or only to change the line?" The cry was universal, "No Commonwealth, no Commonwealth, we abhor the thought of it." Neither do I find in private discourse there is any so mad amongst them as to design the Duke of Monmouth. Earnest they are to prove the Queen accessory to the murder of Sir Edward Godfrey and the late Plot, that beheading her they may make way for any Protestant lady to the King's bed. I was yesterday told that the heads of a Bill against the Duke drawn by a private hand, to be offered the Committee, make his landing in England or Ireland treason, that

he shall be apprehended by the next constable and condemned by the four next Justices of Peace, and executed within the space of forty-eight hours after his landing. But certainly the Committee will be more modest. For four hundred gentlemen as there are, the most considerable for birth and estate of any in their counties, will not admit it in these times, should the Committee bring it in.

It is thought sufficient to avoid all the Acts of the last Parliament if the House of Commons can prove forty members were in constant pension for their votes; and this they doubt not to do though Ch. Barton denies them his book. The Long Robe tell them it is treason both in the giver and the receiver, so they design to try both Ch. Barton and several others besides the old members. Angry men assure me they have a list where they find enough to hang us in the shire town of every county in England and Wales: those that escape with life shall forfeit their estates and be branded upon record to all posterity.

Lest any accident should cause their dissolution or prorogation without their own consent there is a Remonstrance to be ready for publication; and indeed considering the exigence of His Majesty's affairs I do not see how he can subsist without a Parliament, and none can be chosen that will be of another temper. Chief Justice North will certainly be removed as soon as the House of Commons is at leisure to hear the report from the Committee concerning the judgment (some years since) in the case between his brother-in-law, then Sheriff of Suffolk, and Sir S. Barnardiston; and besides his being displaced he will be fined and incapacitated. Judge Wyndham will be removed upon the same score, though with a more gentle censure, as drawn in by North, who is said to have solicited the other judges to disagree with Chief Justice Hale, Twysden, Rainsford and Wild.

Many discourses have been concerning your Grace's removal from the Government of Ireland; and that of the three competitors, Lords Essex, Halifax, and Roberts, two have still mutually joined against the third; which occasions that neither succeeds in his pretensions; nor do I discover that any other is in prospect, though my Lady Ranelagh defames your Grace more maliciously than ever, and there have been and daily are frequent meetings both public and private for that purpose.

It is thought they will fall seriously on Sir Thomas Chicheley concerning the stores, that they will hang Pepys, remove and fine Sir Richard Holmes, Col. Legge, Sir Anthony Deane, and many other Governors and seamen. The House of Commons has but one work for seven years, and will most certainly change much in the constitution of the Government after this King's death; making the Parliament annual, or at most triennial, and giving them a power to propose

three to each office of trust, and the succeeding day to choose one. I could enlarge on this were your Grace at the same leisure to read that I am to write, which I am sure you are not.

Your Grace's most obedient and
devoted servant,

A. B.

P.S.—If His Majesty do not remove Lauderdale, there is an impeachment ready to present to the House of Commons next leisure day, and there are heads drawn of an impeachment against my Lord Anglesey.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679. May. 13, London.—Sunday, May 11. Both Houses dispensed with the peculiar duties of that day out of zeal to the public. The Commons designed it ever since last Wednesday, as the Votes of that day declare, to proceed where they left that day was a fortnight. The Lords having on Saturday voted no Committee, concluded to despatch the same work by free conferences, the adjusting of the methods for the trials being of no small importance, for till then the trials could not commence. So they sat designedly to establish this medium, and accordingly delivered the proposal at a conference, to which 'twas once thought the Commons would have submitted; but some believe, whispers creeping between the two Houses, they were emboldened to stand their ground and desire a free conference on that account, which being granted the point was quaintly debated: my Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal and Lord Ailesbury being the only speakers for the Lords, tho' Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Halifax and others were managers also. The talkers for the Commons were Sir William Coventry, Mr. Poule, Mr. Swinfen, Mr. Hamden, Mr. Symons and one Mr. Paul Foley (one newly started up into great vogue in that House). In fine, the Commons promising they would not invade the Lords' judicature, and it having been carried but by two votes the day before to reject that expedient by a Committee of both Houses, as too invasive of the rights and privileges of that House, and the King uneasy to have such a *punctilio* suspend a matter of so great importance as was the trial of the Lords, which so absolutely depended on the adjusting all methods, etc., of it, the Lords condescended to yield up that point which had been so stoutly adhered to at two debates, and sent a message to give notice to the Commons that they had done so, named their Committee of twelve, which may be found in the Commons' votes, and appointed time and place, and so adjourned past three in the afternoon. After the Commons had appointed their Committee (which was four added to the twelve of the Committee of Secrecy) with great impatience they fell on the work of that day. The Report being made, abstracted out

of those letters and papers of the Committee of Secrecy relating to the Duke, the result was that they were convinced he held a constant correspondence with the Pope, which so inflamed their zeal for the King's person, and the safety of the Protestant religion, that the severest proposals were received with the loudest welcome. They ran so fast that my Lord Cavendish, Sir Thomas Lee, Sir Thomas Meres and Sir Thomas Littleton (heretofore with many others accounted the greatest zealots) could not keep pace with them, nor palliate so severe a vote against the Duke's succession. So bitter a pill that all the gilding and sweetening that followed in relation to the King's person and Protestant religion (tho' excellent good in themselves) will not make it to be swallowable either by King or House of Lords. It was past ten at night 'ere that House rose. It was remarkable to hear how many of the young members of that House, who did not use to deny themselves their plentiful meals, gloried in their kind of martyrdom of being almost starved on this account. Yesterday morning the Committees of both Houses met. The Commons, by agreement at the free conference, were to deliver their proposals as to the methods, which were these four :—

1. That the trial of the Lords (which was to have come on this present Tuesday by the Lords' former order) might be respited, and not fixed till all else was fully adjusted.

2. That they might have a view of all former drafts of Commissions to Lord High Stewards (that they might either know which to approve or what to except against that method).

3. That the Bishops might not be at the trials (urging the precedent of my Lord Strafford's trial, that the Lords themselves offered it to the Commons, and they expected the same now), though I can hear no other argument used besides that their absence would increase the accommodation of more room.

4. To know whether their Lordships intended to go any new way in this trial, for if they trod in the old steps then the Bishops were to absent.

The two first were consented to, but as far as the two latter their Lordships told them they had no instructions to give them any answer. And indeed when it was reported to the House the Lords did not so much as give it any resolution : which when ended Mr. Bedloe brought three witnesses to the Bar to prove that one of his material witnesses of the Plot was sent out of the way. It seems he was a tailor's son, and that my Lord Powis had taken the father for his tailor, and he had forced away his son as the witnesses prove, and that he when on shipboard complained that it troubled his conscience that he could not reveal what he knew, and would fain have landed again. I wonder my friend Bedloe should at this time of day be in want of a material witness. The

rest of yesterday the Lords spent in finishing a Bill for trial of Peers in the interval of Parliament (which it seems hath been thrice refused by the Commons in the last Parliament), but why I do not see, since it only relates to the Lords. I shall only add to the Commons' votes that they spent many hours of that day on a jealousy conceived from the sending twenty field pieces to Portsmouth. Why field pieces to the garrison, unless merely because George Legg was the Governor and the Duke's servant. He handsomely owned himself to be so, and the great obligations he had received from him, and that he took it to be an honour to him to be so. Some grumbled at his gratitude, but most did justly commend it.

This morning the Committee of both Houses met, at which the Commons seemed somewhat dissatisfied at the having a Lord High Steward, but more at the preface to his Commission: it beginning "Whereas there is an absolute necessity that we make a Lord High Steward," &c.; and most that they had yet no answer to that request that no Bishop should sit and vote, and that till they had a resolution in that particular the Commons were resolved they would do nothing. This being reported to the House, they first agreed to alter the Commission, and let it run thus: "At the instance and request of the Lords, the Lord High Stewards are made," &c.; and also declared that a Peer might be tried though there were no Lord High Steward.

Then followed that six hours' debate whether the Bishops should sit at the trial. All owned the point most curiously and nicely debated, and either side appeared confident of carrying it. But when the question came to be put in a very full House, though almost 8 o'clock, this was resolved: "That the Lords Spiritual have a right to stay in Court in capital causes till such time as judgment of death comes to be pronounced," and scarce twenty votes against it. The Commons rose early, did little, chiefly listening what the Lords would do, but I suppose tomorrow will be a busy day in that House. All things run to that wrack and extremity that I fear they will break at last.

VISCOUNT MASSERENE to ORMOND.

1679, May 13, Pall Mall, London.—Seeing I am by the honour of yours of the 26th of April so well assured that what I formerly wrote had good acceptance, I presume to acquaint your Grace when the discourse of removing all Papists out of the cities and corporations of Ireland was most rife, I drew up some remarks upon the clauses in the two Acts, and acquainted my Lord President and others of the Council how needful it was to inspect what had been done already, and thereby to measure and bring into view the proceedings in my Lord Berkeley's Government, at which time a door was opened to let in more than all others besides. For I had observed both in the time of your Grace's Government and my Lord

Ossory's deputation admissions were rare, and I thought it more fair to see what had been done besides the Acts and Rules or against them rather than make a general one of so great comprehension, by which some trading and useful men were removed who perhaps had transgressed no rules in their admission or residence. I cannot affirm, my Lord, what effect this had, but with my Lord Ossory's allowance and command (at my first coming) I put a paper of this sort into my Lord President's and Lord Essex's hands, and discoursed the same with my Lord Halifax, Lord Roberts, and other lords of the Privy Council of my acquaintance, not altogether without their opinion of its seeming reasonable.

The further arming of Protestants in Ireland is what I perceive is deemed necessary, and as I was before confident your Grace would approve of what was done for the safety of Ireland, so I can now with greater confidence assert it. And from the first time I observed a zeal of this sort I humbly desired my Lord Ossory to join in, upon the belief and assurance that whatsoever seemed most for that kingdom's security would be most grateful to you, who had the greatest interest of any subject in it.

The importances now depending exclude the present consideration of these and other affairs of Ireland, and all overtures that may seem now unreasonable; the votes about the militia, the succession to the Crown, the inspection of what arms had been given forth and what are in the stores—of which some were given and distributed by Mr. Bertie, Secretary to Lord Danby—with other votes, and the method now laying down by the Committee of both Houses for trial of the Lords in the Tower take up all the time of the Parliament; and by these and other particulars your Grace will this post have an account of, you will see how far the Houses do still manifest an apprehension of the danger to these kingdoms from the Popish party.

One Fitzgerald, a priest, was taken on Saturday last by Sir William Waller, and the King and Council yesterday sent for Sir William, commended his activeness, and gave orders bail should be taken for this Fitzgerald, he having formerly had some allowance from the King to reside. I need not trouble your Grace with the passages of the news. You have it from better hands. Secretary Coventry communicated your Grace's recommendation about the Lough in my favour, but at the same time told me he would write back, and did so, for your Grace's appointment. Now some blanks should be filled up: till which time that business is at a stand.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, May 14, Wednesday.—The Committee of both Houses being met, instead of their proceeding to adjust the methods in order to the trials, the Commons denied the exposition

of their last night's resolve in the case of the Bishops, that they might plainly and clearly understand in what cases they should and in what cases they should not sit and vote. The Lords present gave their sense, derived from the debates of the House and words of the resolve, but for their conclusive satisfaction promised to report their doubt to the House and did so; where the unanimous interpretation was that in all cases relating to law the Bishops are to sit and vote; but when judgment relating to life and death is to be given then they would withdraw. The rest of the day the Lords spent in perfecting and finishing the Bill for trial of Peers in the interval of Parliament, which they ordered to be sent down, and so adjourned, it being too late to begin any new business.

The Commons seemed at first to answer the King's spur with great mettle, in relation to setting forth a Fleet, but after the Lords had made and declared that interpretation they cooled on a sudden, adjourning that important debate, so necessary for the nation's safety, to so remote a day. For all things else relating to that House I humbly refer your Grace to their paper of Votes.

Thursday, 15.—When the Committee of both Houses met, that pretended expeditious way of despatch proved a dilatory one; for the Commons not having reported the Lords' declaration of their sense in relation to the Bishops, which for want of time was omitted, pretended they were tied up by their instructions not to proceed in any other matter till full satisfaction was given in that of the Bishops: which advantage my Lord Privy Seal presently took to arraign this new expeditious way of a Committee, when had they trod in the old track of conferences all had been quickly adjusted. But since he saw no prospect of such a settlement of affairs as was proposed, he would that they might appoint a day for the trial of the five Lords. For it had no small reflection on the Supreme Court of Judicature that they should be ignorant of those forms and methods they ought to observe in judicature, and the whole nation greedily expected the trial. Also the Lords themselves had petitioned for it, nay the Commons had told them they were ready for prosecution, so that the fault would singly lie at their door; and how could they answer it to Magna Charta that the King's free subjects should be under so long a durance without being tried. But his lordship happened to be interrupted by a Bill the Commons sent up for re-imposing the Records that had been burnt in the Temple, which being read and ordered a second reading my Lord Privy Seal resumed his discourse, pressing for a day to be fixed for the Lords' trial. But the Lord President, after he had magnified the greatness of that Lord's parts, his courage, and zeal for justice, craved leave at this trial to differ, considering how important it was to settle that doubt of the validity or invalidity of the pardon, which tho' he should allow to be duly

obtained, and in itself without exception ; yet, considering it was granted depending an impeachment, the whole frame of Government turned on that single thing. For if it could be such a King might be that would thereby shelter all criminals from justice, nay and tho' there was but one pardon now appearing yet who could tell but that might be the case of all other Lords when this should be allowed. The same Lord replied, that could not be ; for had they pardons by them they had made a plea of innocence, and so disowned their pardons, and therefore moved for their trial when there could be no such rub ; but the House seeing every one set for the debate, and it being late, adjourned both debate and House till next morning.

Amongst the Commons' proceedings of this day the most remarkable was (and possibly a more remarkable one never did happen, nor I hope ever will again) that bill to disenable the Duke of York from inheriting. It loads him with the guilt of correspondence with the Pope and Cardinals for the subversion of our religion, nay and to be consenting to the death of the King ; not only disinheriting him, but utterly banishing him, and make it treason so much as to correspond with him, nay to own him the rightful heir. Monday is the next day, as I understand, for the second reading. Some struggled to have delayed the first reading, urging the thinness of the House, occasioned by a dog match at Hampton Court, and a horse match at Bansted Downs ; but no argument could stem the tide, and read it was.

Now one word of sport. At Bansted twelve horses run for three plates, a plate a heat, when Roger Pope's horse threw and bruised him, and Tom Wharton's threw him and he was taken up for dead, yet is alive again but much battered, and this they call sport. The Duke of Monmouth escaped narrowly. There was so vast a crowd no other could be expected. My providence (to which success makes me [illegible] kept me from being a jockey, to avoid which I avoided that very place.

Friday, 16.—The Lords received another report from their members of the Committee of both Houses, that the Commons did adhere and would not enter upon the debate of any other methods till they were fully satisfied as to the Bishops withdrawing at all the trials. Some looked on this as too much imposing on the Lords, and, against the engagement of the Commons, an intermeddling with judicature ; others, according as their judgment led them, advocating for it. But this brought on the adjourned debate again, it being urged that if the Commons would be rusty that would not excuse a failure of justice in the Supreme Court of Judicature ; nor could they be so ignorant of their own methods in such trials as to need consulting the Commons. Therefore it was moved that a day of trial ought to be appointed, and at the debate of this controversy there

was mutual calling to the bar between the two great lords (the Lord President and Privy Seal. The latter took, it seems, offence at two expressions : the first that the Earl of Danby's pardon was called an arbitrary pardon, the other that in aggravating the crimes of the Earl of Danby beyond those of the other five Lords this expression happened, 'that the Earl of Danby is a great man still.' This was wrested to asperse the King, and had been so construed had not my Lord Ailesbury's notes cleared my Lord Shaftesbury, by whom he sat, that the words only were 'he may be a great man still.' Some observed it was one surer way to make one less by the head, and that the same was a sure way to prevent greatness, which it seems was the great crime. But my Lord Essex would not allow that all the crime of which my Lord Danby stood impeached of, though never so true, could equal to theirs who sought the murder of the King, the change of religion, and subversion of the Government. After all the strugglings and fencings by the great masters of that art came that common end of all debates in Parliament, the question. By which it was carried by four to one that on Thursday next the five Popish Lords shall come to their trials, and so adjourned.

The Commons, as their Votes and former resolutions show, did little ; nothing of importance. I forgot that as soon as the question was over-ruled for the trial of the five Lords, the Bishops desired leave to withdraw at the trial, which was granted accordingly. However they lodged their claim of right. This day the Lords began with private bills, till in a fuller House they received the report from their part of the Committee of both Houses, that the Commons were not satisfied with the order for the trial of the Lords, nor the Bishops withdrawing in their case, but expected it should be owned that the Bishops had no right to sit upon any of the trials, the contrary being implied from their lodging their claim to it. They also expected the Earl of Danby should come first to his trial, because they had demanded judgment against him already, and that till they were satisfied fully in that particular relating to the Lords Spiritual they would not proceed to adjust the methods of the trials. This inflamed the [illegible] and made the Lords not only adhere to their resolution of trying the Lords on Thursday next, but they also ordered their Committee of Privileges to sit this afternoon to debate and consider former precedents in order to the methodising the trial, and that they might have the more time they rose the earlier.

The Commons I leave to speak for themselves in their Votes. What I infer from both Houses is that we are almost run aground. For the Commons are determined to try the Earl of Danby first ; the Lords have ordered as they conceive they had right to do, the trial of the five Lords first. Again, the Commons are not content that the Lords Spiritual

should withdraw and lodge their claims, but would have the Lords confirm their vote that the Bishops have no right to sit in such judicatures. And I really believe the Lords are determined to yield in neither. We are on the very brink of confusion. I have sent your Grace the copy of the Bill against the Duke of York. I wish it were better written, that it might not create a double trouble.

SIR ROBERT HOWARD to ORMOND.

1679, May 15.—This day in Council it is ordered that all the papers and accounts relating to Ireland and my Lord Ranelagh should be returned into Ireland to be heard and judged there. This is now determined, and I suppose the order will be signed to-morrow. If there be any further proceedings or alteration your Grace shall know it. I hope this may be to the good of Ireland and your satisfaction.

ORMOND TO SIR STEPHEN FOX.

1679, May 17, Dublin.—Among all the alterations I hear of I am pleased with none so much as with that that fixes you in the Paymaster's place. I thought your remove from it was hard, and little for the King's service, and I hope your restitution to it may show it. If this part of our intelligence be true, you are able to tell me whether the officers that were of Colonel M'Carty's regiment and disbanded here without pay are to expect any for the time they served. Their pretensions are the same with those of my Lord Dumbarton's regiment, who were reformed when the regiment was sent hither because they would not take the oaths required. For these Irish officers as well as these Scotch quit their employments in France to serve His Majesty, and they are told the Scotch officers have or are to receive their pay. It will be charity to let these poor gentlemen know whether they are to hope for anything or no, for their condition is most miserable. All the stock, even of clothes, they brought out of France is spent, and several of them are in prison for their lodging and diet. Their religion brings them into suspicion here, and if they had wherewith to transport themselves to begin the world again, I dare not give them passports and testimonials. Besides those of M'Carty's regiment there are some who served in the Duke of Monmouth's regiment; three of them of my acquaintance, and for whom I am particularly concerned, Major John Butler, Captain James Purcell and Captain Sarsfield. Your return cannot be too soon, for I would gladly be freed from the importunity and sight of men that deserve some consideration and relief, which is not in my power to give them.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 17.—I discoursed this day with the King about the affair between you and my Lord Winchester, and was

careful to express that you would always be as ready to serve him as if you did continue in that station, which you would only part with to render your condition more easy. I assured him also that if he did not relish this proposition that the commerce should be broken by us, without His Majesty giving any disgust by not affording his consent. All his answer was that he would think upon it, for it was a matter of consequence. If there be any further progress in this matter I will take care to have your money put in sure hands, and if possible shall raise the price. This is all I have to inform you of at present.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 17, Whitehall.—I have your Grace's of the 30 of April both from my Lord of Ossory and Mr. Ryder. I find by my Lord of Ossory that the thoughts of your coming over are laid aside for the present; and for my part I think it is well they are. For your presence here would but precipitate those designs of your enemies by giving them the alarm, and your Grace's moving to come over (if any accident should happen in your absence) would not 'scape odd reflections according to the humour of this present conjuncture; and it would be hard for your friends to give a reason for your sudden quitting your ship in such danger; and if it should be said you did not think it were so, that would be judged a greater crime than any I yet can learn they have against you. All that I hear they yet pretend to are but the old ones in my Lord of Meath's time, and were framed out of my Lord Bishop of Meath's letter. But in all events by staying where you are and taking no notice of whispers and rumours you will still gain time, which is very considerable at present. Something very determining will necessarily appear after the trial of these Lords, neither do I perceive by their proceedings with the Duke and my Lord Lauderdale that they intend to proceed by way of accusation, especially where the matter is not plain; and the great changes that seem to be intended will not allow them leisure of formal trials. They frequently mention the putting of all places both by sea and land into the hands of confiding persons; whether that will be granted or no I know not (I mean they being judges) who are such, if that be once obtained, I think your Grace will rest satisfied of the consequence. How far His Majesty will struggle, or run with this tempest, I know not. But you being in the House of Lords at the time must needs upon daily occasions oblige you either to weaken your interest there or increase the animosities in the House of Commons, where as yet I do not perceive them increase. The only thing they now talk of is the arming of all Protestants, of which I gave you a hint in my last, and I suppose your best way is to send a list to the Council of those you have armed, and to receive their directions what you shall do

further in that matter, and to ask directions and obey them is all I think can be demanded of one in your station. Thursday is appointed by the House of Lords for the trial of the five Lords. I doubt it will be endeavoured to be deferred by the Commons; but if the Lords persist I know not how it can be avoided. In conclusion I think we are nigh a great crisis, but what resolutions His Majesty will take, or when taken will steadfastly maintain, is to acquaint you with what I know not myself. For my own part, I am resolved to be honest according to my understanding; for my safety I leave it to God's Providence, for I confess the danger is beyond my skill. I pray God it may not be beyond theirs that have more share in the guidance of affairs than I either have or affect to have. The laying your command at the King's feet I would not dissuade, if I found any inclination in the King towards your removal, but indeed I do not, and the circumstances are much altered. Your danger was formerly principally from Court, and your interest in the then House of Commons was so considerable that it was that which secured you. I would I could write you now that either you or any man of your principles had so prevailing an interest there now. I am now confined to my chambers, and since I have been so there hath a vote passed in the Council for my Lord Ranelagh going personally or sending some one sufficiently authorised to pass his accounts in Ireland. I hear he will struggle all he can to remove it, but I hope he will not be able.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 18. Dublin.—You will with this receive such a letter as Sir Robert Southwell tells me it was resolved at his house I should send, and it is ordered that it may be delivered when it may be thought necessary. I confess I cannot well figure to myself such a conjuncture; but it is a time of such sudden and extraordinary variations that I cannot say but that it may so happen that such a letter may be of use. Whenever the doing it shall be in deliberation I desire Mr. Secretary may be consulted, and that he may have no cause to think that anything concerning me is concealed from him. In this strange uncertainty of affairs, I know not what to think, write or do, or for or against what to prepare. Others I suppose under the same uneasiness, but I know nobody that has such a province as I to manage and answer for.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, May 19.—The Lords received that report from the Committee of both Houses that the Commons did adhere to their former vote that the Bishops had no right to sit and vote on the proceedings against any of the impeached Lords in the Tower; and when that was asserted, and other particulars adjusted, they would then proceed first on the Earl

of Danby's pardon, and after to the trial of the five Lords. After this, and another report which was made from the Committee of Privileges of the methods and circumstances they had adjusted in order to all the trials, they began to comment on the former report, each one (according to his inclinations) accusing or excusing it. Some were unwilling to part with the Bishops for the occasion's sake, some for the Bishop's own sakes ; some for voting against their votes, as being themselves influenced by the Commons, some as having influenced them : each one abounding in his own sense as infallible, and with severity enough reflecting on theirs that differed. This proved a great trial of skill (though accompanied with great heat, which usually is no small prejudice to it). There was great fencing to renew the question concerning the Bishops' capacity of voting by surprise, which had been twice otherwise resolved, which was so quickly perceived and so well guarded that 'twas not easy for them to come at it. One party (to strengthen which the Duke of Buckingham was come into the House but the day before, and from whence not known) received encouragement from having at last carried that so often desired demand of the Commons to transact by a Committee and not by Conference. And from the same cause and its ill success, the other party inferred greater caution, that Committee being the occasion of all the delays [that] have since happened, being only empowered to make the report of the Commons resolves, not to admit of any debate by which Conferences would quickly have shortened the work. To avoid running into this troublesome question some would have taken advantage of the lateness of the day to adjourn the House, and the others consented so the debate might be adjourned also. That was opposed because there ought to be no such debate : it being urged to be against a standing order of the House that anything being solemnly resolved on a debate by a conclusive question should the same session be resumed again. Then 'twas moved (that no stone might be unturned) that the House would resolve into a Grand Committee (which it seems cannot be denied to any member in any debate) to debate the business ; but my Lord Roberts [illegible] their fault that the question being now only adjourn or not adjourn, a bare question was only proper to determine that controversy ; and so it proved, and the House only, not the debate, was adjourned. I am sure the season of the year brings on heat apace, and all these airy disputes gained no ground.

The Commons rose the earlier because they were to deliver the enclosed address by three in the afternoon to His Majesty in the Banqueting House. The greatest time they spent was in making amendments in the Bill for banishing the Papists hence, which though not many are enough to delay the despatch of that Bill also.

This day hath been a day of great and learned debate in the Lords' House on a report made from the Committee of both Houses that the Commons immoveably adhered to their vote against the Bishops having votes at trials, and for the trial of the Earl of Danby before the Popish Lords. They discoursed themselves into the old quarrels again. One which it was thought reasonable that the Earl of Danby should be first tried, but then the Bishops' right to vote was first to be adjusted. It was answered that it was so already. However, insensibly the debate began afresh, and lasted in a Committee of the whole House from ten till five. The Duke of Buckingham, who began to appear last Thursday, and first took the oaths on Friday, is said to have spoken scores of times, but, 'twas said, more pleasantly than learnedly, but my Lord President supplied that defect. My Lord Halifax did his part also, but my Lord Hollis (tho 'tis said his gout has changed his stomach for his foot) was not able to appear. But my Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Ailesbury and Lord Roberts, besides the Bishops themselves, had so studied the point of the Bishops' right that my Lord Roberts (whose very adversaries admire him for the day's work) did not only clear the point that the Bishops might sit on trial, but that they equally ought to do it at least as any other Peers, and that the House could not dispense with them; so that the debate was, as it were, yielded in favour of the Bishops without a question. But the trial of the five Lords is ordered to be first, and yet put off from Thursday next to Tuesday (this day sennight) that the Commons may have sufficient time to prepare, notice being ordered to be given tomorrow.

The Commons chiefly spent their day on Mr. Pepys and Sir Anthony Deane, who were accused of sundry miscarriages and are committed to the Serjeant at Arms, the first to make his defence on Thursday, and the other on Monday. Thus your Grace shall know more of the matter.

ORMOND to SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE.

1679, May 21, Dublin.—I delayed my return to yours of the 10th inst. in expectation I might have received some directions out of England in relation to this Government, upon the representations of the state of it which have lain long on that side; I think unconsidered, but I am sure without any return that might guide and assist me in the dangers and difficulties I set forth. But having seen what late consultations and debates have produced, and taking measure by them what work is cut out, I do not wonder that so remote a place as this is for the present left to shift for itself.

I had a command to send over a list of the Privy Council of this kingdom, with my opinion what officers ought always to be of it, which I immediately sent; but without any other remarks or advice than what was called for. I have long

thought there was too easy access to that dignity in this kingdom, which brought it to a lower esteem and authority than is requisite where the King governs by deputation. Yet I know not whether so great a reform as seems to be designed will suit with affairs here, or be at this time seasonable. As numerous as the Council is there are certain seasons of the year when a sufficient number cannot be had to carry on the ordinary business, and if a Parliament should be called (a thing I have earnestly pressed for since my landing) perhaps the reducing of so many Councillors would be better after than before.

I am sorry you found any reason to waive being of the Irish Committee of Council, for as your memory will easily recover clear notions of the state of this kingdom, so your kindness to it and your knowledge of the importance of keeping it quiet within and secure from foreign dangers, will warm your thoughts and advices and give them more life than what may proceed from those that have limited considerations. I will not deny that I have some thought of myself when I write you when anything from me or of me shall be under deliberation, being as confident of your friendship as you may be that I am your most affectionate and most humble servant.

Copy.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, May 21, Dublin.—Your mother being at Kilkenny I sent her yours of the 13th inst. for her satisfaction in our private concerns. I remember you said you would proceed with caution and advice in your treaty with the Marquis, which I approve of. Yet I would have you to consider that if an Act of Parliament shall pass concerning the succession, pursuant to the vote of the House of Commons, it is very like all possible provision will be made to render it effectual, and particularly it is probable that oaths agreeable to the design will be required, at least from all considerable officers and Privy Councillors. How I shall be able to digest such an oath I cannot judge till I see it; only I tell you I am somewhat tender in the point of oaths. The matter must be true in my opinion, just in what they bind to, and compatible with other lawful oaths formerly taken by me, or else I shall refuse them, cost me what it will. You are upon the place and will first see how far things tend this way, and may accordingly hasten or retard the negotiation.

Copy.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1697, May 21, London.—By reason of my Lord Chancellor's term affairs it was late 'ere the Lords sat, and because the Committee of Privileges might have the more time to adjust all the preliminaries in order to the trial of

the five Lords next Tuesday, they were under a kind of necessity of rising early; so that the little their lordships did this morning was to read some bills. Only the Duke of Buckingham took the advantage of some discourses on the subject of the trial to propose that since the Bishops ought not to be there the Bench reserved for them might be otherwise employed, since the room was strait and scant, thereby designing to renew the debate of the Bishops' right of sitting again: which as soon as detected was sufficiently decried, as having after so solemn a debate been so solemnly resolved; so the House adjourned.

The Commons made an end of one of their Bills against Popery, but with so many amendments that the work is not yet over. The Bill against the Duke of York found much more opposition than was expected; the number who at first gainsaid it being but 13, and now there appeared against it 128; so that many infer thence that it will scarce pass that House.

Thursday, May 22.—The Lords received a message from the Commons, both to remind them of the condemned priests who were reprieved in order to their examination, yet they had never yet so much as been summoned; and if they had done with them to have them removed to the several counties where they had been condemned, in order to their execution; and also to remind them of a former desire they had made for the Lords and Commons [to join] in an address to the King that the adjacent militia might be drawn together to secure the trials against any manner of disorder or disturbance, chiefly expected from the Papists. As for the former part, the Lords designed for the priests first to appear at the Committee of Examination to confront those who have mentioned them at such meetings and consults, and who will justify to their faces their knowledge of and being engaged in the Plot, to try whether that and hopes of pardon will draw confessions out of them, and according they shall be dealt with after. As to the other part, they not only sent them word they would concur with them in their address, but also that the King had appointed next day at 3 o'clock to receive it. One remarkable passage happened on this debate. My Lord President reflected very severely on the ill consequences of reprieving these priests, that it had revived the spirits of the Papists, legible in their very looks, and so proceeded till my Lord Clarendon gave this interruption that it was the Lord President himself who was the only mover of this reprieve, whose authority was so great that, because he moved it, it was ordered, without any reason asked or given. My Lord President's evasion was that if he had any fault it was tender-heartedness, an infirmity he could not help. But an end was put to that discourse by a message from the Commons to desire a free conference on the amendments to the *Habeas Corpus* Bill, which lasted

so long that as soon as the report was made the Lords adjourned.

The Commons votes show all they did. The accusations against Sir Anthony Deane were aggravated to the height, and some think their measure hard enough at least. But I shall respite my verdict till the judges have given theirs : it being referred to a legal prosecution ; and in the meantime they are not expelled the House.

Friday, May 23.—The Lord President reports from the Committee of Lords and Commons that the Commons were dissatisfied in these three points : 1. Whether the message sent them to give them notice of the trial, and their methods, was in the nature of a resolution or a proposal ? If the latter there was room left for argument and debate. 2. Whether their lordships intended that for a full answer to their declaration that the Bishops had no right to sit on criminal matters ? 3. Whether they would not permit my Lord Danby to be tried first, since they had in this case demanded judgment, or begin with the five Lords ? The tardy answers to these questions consumed most of that day. To the first this was the answer : The message did contain their resolution *de bene esse* as matters stood before them, but that if they should see good cause they should be ready to do what was reasonable. As to the second, what they said in relation to the Bishops was the determination of a long and serious debate, and from whence they would not recede. And lastly, as to the third, they saw so many difficulties to be removed, more in relation to my Lord Danby's trial (as that of the pardon, and that of the Bishops who had leave to absent at the five Lords' trials) than in the others, that they had resolved first to go on with the five Lords. One day being spent, and both Houses in the afternoon to wait on the King with their address, they adjourned.

I shall add this account to the Votes of the Commons, that when Sir Stephen Fox appeared he seemed resolute, and (as they termed it) trifled with them, till Boscawen moved that if he would not deal more clearly a bill might be brought in to confiscate his estate, and take away his life : language it seems he could not so well relish, and then submitted to answer questions more readily. I must add one passage more, that when he was to go for his papers, to oblige him to bring all, Sir John Hotham and Sir Robert Peyton were ordered to go with him. But notice being given to His Majesty, he sent my Lord Chamberlain to tell them he would not have Whitehall searched. So that they were fain to trust him, and he his memory. And as they read over the list of all the last Parliament's members he accused and acquitted as he thought fit. The list I have enclosed, with an addition of six of this day distinguished by themselves. It is true this was all done seven years since almost (for he had nothing to do with payments since the Earl of Danby's

Treasurership) yet the guilt is so highly resented as if done but yesterday. And many (if not all) had other pretensions to such pensions than voting in Parliament, as former sufferings, some in the loss of farms in the Excise, some in the Customs, &c.; yet all these are comprehended in the term of pensioners.

In the afternoon both Houses presented their address to the King concerning the adjacent militias being drawn together at the trials. The King's answer was that he would take all possible care for the securing them and the trial against any manner of disturbance, but did not particularly take notice of the militia.

This day, May 24.—Great part of this day the Lords spent in a trial on an appeal by Mr. Ward (my Lord Ward's son) against a judgment obtained by one Mr. Booth, brother to my Lord Delamere, for whom the cases went and the appeal was dismissed. Then the Lords read and committed the Bill for the banishment of Papists. They also considered the Bill of *Habeas Corpus* and its amendments, which will cost another conference for its finishment. There was also a report made from the Committee of Examinations, that it appeared to them by several evidences that there was of late great resorts of Papists to this city, which will quicken the despatch of a Bill of Banishment.

By the Commons' Votes it appears the trial of the Lords is not so near as was expected. For if neither side will yield there can be no trial at all. Delay begins already to flatten the sense of the Plot, only daily new committed follies raises it again. Upon Sir Francis Winnington's report the six separate pensioners, as they call them, were added to the list this day, and they say by Tuesday next they shall bring in a hundred more at least. Thus ends this week.

Sir John Robinson died last night, heart-broken for being turned out of the Tower, where my Lord Alington now is as Constable, and Tom Cheeke as Lieutenant, not Governor and Deputy Governor as was at first intended.

ORDER OF PRIVY COUNCIL to LORD LIEUTENANT.

1679, May 21.—At the Court at Whitehall. The King's Most Present Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas a letter of the 17th instant from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to Mr. Secretary Coventry was this day read to His Majesty in Council, together with two informations sent therewith signifying the resort of some dangerous fanatic preachers from Scotland into the North of Ireland, and that one Walsh is supposed to be among them who has been so noted an incendiary, and that the arrival of the people happened soon after the late murder of the Archbishop of St. Andrews; His Majesty is pleased to order that the Right Honorable Mr. Secretary Coventry do forthwith signify to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland that he take all possible care

for the seizure of the said Walsh; as also to prevent and suppress all disorderly conventicles of the fanatics in those parts from whom any danger may be apprehended; and that the arms which are licensed to be imported do not fall into the hands of such dangerous and suspected persons. And whereas this day Mr. John Tasburgh, of Bodney, in the county of Norfolk, hath had a pass to go with his family into Ireland, there to remain for a year and to follow his lawful occasions, having an estate in Connaught and some law suits to prosecute, the Lord Lieutenant at his arrival in Dublin is to cause security to be taken that nothing shall be done to him to the disturbance of the peace. Whereof Mr. Secretary is to give notice accordingly.

[Signed] ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

ORMOND to SIR ROBERT HOWARD.

1679, May 24, Dublin.—I was very glad to receive yours of the 15th of this month, as it was an argument of your recovery and of your friendship to me. I have also received the Order in Council by which my Lord of Ranelagh and his partners are said to be commanded over hither, where in truth they are most properly, if but only to give an account of their undertaking and of a sum of money they borrowed of the King, to enable them to perform which would now be of great use to help to put this kingdom into a better state of defence than it is or can be without some accession to the revenue. I hope the Lords will see His Majesty's Order in Council obeyed, and that so many of the undertakers as are there may not upon any pretence be dispensed with so as to retard the final closing of these accounts. For on that the safety of this kingdom visibly depends, as is in some measure observed by the Lords in their letter of the 16th to me and this Council. Your assistance herein will be very much for the King's service and this kingdom's.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 24.—This morning I presumed to inquire of the King if he had thought on the proposals I had made him concerning the exchange I mentioned. He told me plainly that his dislike of the person was such as he could not give his approbation, and desired me to break off this treaty by asking too much, or some way to take from him the hardship of a denial; in which I will obey him the best I can. Just now your letter of the 18th with one to Mr. Secretary Coventry is come to my hands. I believe all your friends will be of my mind that the only use to be made of it will be to keep it ready in case of need; men's thoughts being altogether employed upon the affairs depending between both Houses. I have not anything else to give you an account of.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 24, Whitehall.—I have received this post three from your Grace of the 17th inst ; one in behalf of my Lord Chief Justice Keating, the others concerning the revenue. The first His Majesty granted, and I shall get the letter signed with what expedition I can ; the other is referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. And as to the third, your intelligence out of the North, your letter was read in Council, and there His Majesty declared his approbation of your diligence, and requires you will continue to prevent any evil designs, but more particularly that you would endeavour to seize the person of Walsh, and as soon as he is seized to give notice of it hither. It is not a time to write news, and indeed no very safe one to speak truth. You will have accounts of what passeth from several hands, and when you do there will be no need of making reflections on them : the consequences are too visible.

Your former letter concerning arming the Protestants was read at Council and was very satisfactory. This day bringeth us news again of a great quantity of arms shipped for Dublin. They were sold by one Mons. La Terre which giveth the more jealousy, but I hope they are for the use mentioned by your Grace.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, May 25, Dublin.—I am abundantly satisfied that my remove from this place at this time upon my own desire would bring all the inconveniences you mention upon me, and perhaps some that cannot be foreseen. Nor do I know but that the knowledge of my supposing there may be such a conjuncture wherein I ought to beg His Majesty's leave for it may be taken advantage of to my prejudice. Yet I could not refuse the putting such a letter as mine of the 30th of the last month into your hands upon the advice of my friends, and in confidence you would not present it but at a fit time, if any such should happen. My head is so filled with the expectation of some great event from the state affairs were in when you writ that all I can do is but to keep up the outward show of government and the formal part of business with the same preparation you express of doing my duty when I shall understand wherein. The course held with the Duke and Duke of Lauderdale is not a greater argument of haste than it is an instance and exercise of power. There is indeed great disparity in the cases. The subject matter about the Duke as well as his person are the highest that can come in question in our world ; but since to the determination of that the Commons allow the King and House of Lords a share from which upon the matter they are both excluded in the other case, for the Lords are not invited to join in the Address, and it is worded as if little were left to the King's consideration : this I say considered, and the unlimited

consequence of such a proceeding, I do not know to which to give the pre-eminence. At the very time this may come to your hands these reflections may seem, as in truth they may be, frivolous and insipid. But I hope you will not think it at any time unreasonable to receive the assurance of my being, &c., &c.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, May 26, London.—The Lord President made a report from the Committee of both Houses that the Commons demanded of them whether they were empowered to give any answer to their propositions in relation to the Lords Spiritual, and the trial of the Earl of Danby's pardon; and that till they were resolved in those two points, and those were adjusted, they could not answer their lordships' propositions preparatory to the trial. They pressed in the close for a positive assent or denial. But their lordships did not at that time enter on any debate of the report; but proceeded to read the Bill for the banishment of Papists from London and the parts adjacent, and went through its amendments, and then read the *Habeas Corpus* Bill and its amendments and returned it to the Commons. Whilst this last Bill was reading came up a message from the Commons to desire their lordships to continue sitting some time longer. Their answer was they would sit a competent time. Immediately came up a message to desire a conference on matters of great importance to the kingdom, and for preserving a good correspondence between the two Houses, which was consented to. Mr. Sacheverell was the person that made the speech. He declared the desire of the Commons to continue a right understanding and good correspondence between the two Houses, urged the necessity of it from the great importance of the affairs depending, owned the crimes of the five Lords to be great, yet as the case stands the trial of the Earl of Danby ought to have the precedency: aggravated his imaginary guilt, placing on his account all the delays of business and all the differences between the two Houses and all the difficulties they have laboured under; reflecting on his not having been committed when first impeached, as what had prevented all this expense of time and treasure which have been the consequence of his ill management; and the delay of justice, notwithstanding they demanded it the 5th of May. Wherefore as they were surprised with the Lords' order of the 7th of May to prepare the Lords' trial before his, they severely reflected on his being permitted to plead his pardon, as what would dash all impeachment if allowed. And why might not the other five Lords also obviate all their trials with the same expedient? Lastly, that his impeachment was first and consequently his trial ought to be so. His speech was long, and therefore was delivered in writing to

their lordships, a paper betwixt reasons and remonstrances ; but it being late the Lords adjourned the consideration of it (after they had reduced it into these two points : the Earl of Danby's trial to be first, and the Bishops to be excluded from it) till 5 in the afternoon. The Commons' Votes shall speak for them, so that I have only a short account to add—that when the Lords met in the afternoon they continued the debate on these two points, and then adjourned the debate until next morning.

This morning, 27th.—The Lords as soon as they met resumed the debate warmly enough. Some heats more than ordinary happened between the Marquis of Winchester and Lord Privy Seal. The former was the aggressor, reflecting on the latter as if he sought to govern the House. But that was quenched. But at last the questions were put and carried by above half and half that their lordships would both adhere to their former resolutions concerning the Bishops, as also concerning the trial of the five Lords before the Earl of Danby. They then had a conference concerning the *Habeas Corpus* Bill, which they most luckily agreed.

Then the King sent the Black Rod to the Commons (all this time the five Popish Lords, environed with spectators of both sexes and all qualities, continued in Westminster Hall in order to their trial). The Commons being come to the Lords' bar, and all the Lords with their robes, provided in order to the trial, the King told both Houses that he had hoped and promised himself great good from this session ; but such was the disagreement between the two Houses that he found his hopes frustrated, and as the only expedient left referred to the Chancellor, who declared the Parliament prorogued till the 14th of August. Thus all parted in a mist of surprise. The King remanded the Lords to the Tower. The lawyers say this will enlarge the Earl of Danby by pleading his pardon in Westminster Hall, unless it be unadvisable to the King's service. I am sure Irish cattle may come over now. Till the return of the Parliament this is the last trouble I shall give your Grace ; on Friday departing to prepare for buck-hunting. This night my Lord O'Brien was re-married to my Lady Sophia Osborne by the Bishop of Exeter, and last night old Sir Charlie Harbord died.

EARL OF OSSORY TO ORMOND.

1679, May 27.—I received yours of the 21st inst. By what you will hear has passed this day, you will see there will be time enough to consider of the contents of your letter. What measures will be taken, and what persons most trusted, is as yet uncertain. I will be watchful and use my best endeavours to find out anything wherein you may be concerned ; and when we see how things move my Lord Chamberlain, Sir Robert Southwell and myself will act the best we can in order to your service. This with his respects

my Lord Chamberlain desired me to assure you. My Lord Massereene desired me to entreat your favour concerning the business mentioned in my enclosed paper. I am in waiting this week and now called away. This is not an excuse for the shortness of my letter, for I have not anything more worth writing unto you.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1679, May 27.—I now happen to be in London, where I have the opportunity of performing your Excellency's command in preferring to Christ Church the young man whom you were pleased to recommend. And I shall be ready to give him all further encouragement as he shall become capable of it. When I came from home I left my Lord James very well, and the little misadventure of the Governor perfectly composed. The sudden prorogation of the Parliament giving me a more speedy dismissal than else I might have had, I propose tomorrow morning to return home, when I shall endeavour to serve my Lord James to the utmost of my abilities.

When your Excellency shall be pressed to nominate a new Vice-Chancellor, I humbly conceive that Mr. Timothy Halton, Provost of Queen's College, will be a person qualified to fill that employment. Any time before Michaelmas being time enough for the nomination of a successor, possibly it may not be of use to make a hasty disposition.

I beseech Almighty God to continue His protection and blessing to your Excellency in your great station and private concerns.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 27, London.—Since my last to your Grace of the 24th instant, wherein I gave you notice of the intelligence sent us from Holland of arms transporting for Ireland, this Order of Council is sent to me, which because it is more particular than my letter I remit the copy to your Grace, that you may inquire whether they are arms provided by those merchants you have licensed, or others and to other intents.

This day hath produced great news to me; the prorogation of Parliament till the 14th of August. The particular reasons that inclined His Majesty I know not. But it is certain the animosities betwixt the two Houses were grown to a great height, and probably would have increased to that height that great inconveniencies must have followed. But how these that will follow on the prorogation will be avoided I hope His Majesty knoweth. I confess I do not.

ARCHBISHOP OF CASHEL* to ORMOND.

1679, May 28, Cashel . . . Having this opportunity, I presume yet further to remind your Grace of Dr. Sall, that

*Thomas Price, Archbishop of Cashel, 1667—1685. Dr. Price, who had been a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, had previously filled the see of Kildare, to which he was appointed in 1661.

some better subsistence may be provided for him in this kingdom, where his earnest desire is to spend the remainder of his days ; in order whereunto he hath refused good preferment in England. To this purpose I made bold to write formerly to your Grace ; but hearing of his letter from Oxford (dated May 12th) being minded to put your Grace in remembrance of him, I have adventured to give your Grace this second memento.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, May 28, Dublin.—By that time this goes to you I believe you will receive a visit from Sir Charles Meredith, our Chancellor of the Exchequer, and one of the Commissioners appointed to inspect the proceedings of the Farmers of the Revenue. I give him the titles of his employments to introduce the testimony I am to give that he has in my observation discharged them with great diligence and ability, and that in all things which relate to the King's service I know none of the King's Council here that manifests more zeal or better principles, or upon whose relation to the state of this kingdom you may more safely depend, as far as he will undertake to represent it. I conceive this account to be not only a justice to him, but some service to the King, that he may know whom he may encourage and trust.

Copy.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, May 31, Whitehall.—I received your Grace's of the 17th inst., and likewise by the hand of my Lord of Ossory the letter you mentioned concerning your coming into England. Your first was very welcome because it stifled a report that was very loud upon the Exchange of the surprising of Kinsale, but by whom it was not said. Yours of the 20th inst. I acquainted you I had showed the Council, so there are two letters directed to you from thence which Sir Robert Southwell put into my hands.

The news of the prorogation of Parliament will, I suppose, be as surprising to you as it was with us ; but the truth is had we sat a day longer in all appearance something of great inconvenience must have happened between the two Houses.

Yesterday my Lord Ranelagh petitioned the Council for a reversal of the order for his going to Ireland. He was pleased to say in Council that the accounts given in to the Commissioners in Ireland were final, whereas those very men that subscribed the accounts say they are neither full nor final. He did with extreme assurance challenge any man to make appear that he or any of his partners by his knowledge had ever compounded with or defrauded any of the army ; and in conclusion declared that if he might be heard, in one hour and a half he would clear the whole business. Upon this a committee is appointed upon Tuesday next to hear

him and expect this great wonder. His party in the Council were not many, but well placed. I would be glad to be furnished with some proofs from Ireland that the so much talked of composition with the army is not a calumny as his lordship would pretend it.

We are full of jealousies, libels and unquietness; and nothing that I can see to expect from, but good husbandry, an herb that of late years hath not grown much in our Court. The greatest foreign news is the death of the Duke of Bavaria.

[— BOUELL] to — WATTS.

1679, May 31, London.—My last was of the 27th inst., the memorable day of the Parliament's prorogation, which was not effected by the advice of the Privy Council; but people will not excuse Lauderdale, the French Ambassador, and a certain woman. People talk oddly here as if Tangier were probably sold to the French, and that the King had lately received from the French Ambassador 200,000*l.*, part of 700,000*l.* for the same. The new raised forces are now even quite disbanded. One of them told a gentleman, a friend of mine, that he and others had now listed themselves, and that the horses are removed and not sold. Lord Shaftesbury told the King upon the prorogation that there was no need of holding a candle to the King's face, for his intent was visible by his actions. He would have been released of his nominal office and Privy Councillorship, but the King would not spare him. There is a printed paper public which acquits the fanatics of the murder of the Bishop of St Andrews, and lays it on two sons of the Church, whom the Bishop as they conceived had wronged sufficiently and undone. However, none of that gang are taken so much as on suspicion, as I hear. Pepys and Sir Arthur Deane are likely to be discharged upon their *Hebeas Corpus* suddenly. Now the Parliament is up, Lord Chief Justice Scroggs hath given order to have Dr. Batty indicted for a common barrister, and is mightily troubled about the prorogation and the Parliament, as almost all people here are. We had very few bonfires and little ringing of bells the 29th inst; men know not what to say or do, but expect great changes.

I here enclosed send you a printed copy of the Narrative and Reasons of the House of Commons why the Earl of Danby should be tried before the five Lords in the Tower. It is worth your reading. They were sold and printed in three sheets: now that they are printed in one I can send it conveniently. There has been three several impressions of it in two days time, and twice seized; once by order of the Court and once by order of our Lord Mayor. But this publication cannot be prevented, they are so thick brought up. There are expected smart things in print shortly, not unknown to the late Committee of Secrecy. I know nothing to add further at present.

Endorsed "copy of a letter from London to Mr. Watts, received 9 June, 1679."

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, May 31.—I believe you will be informed by my Lord of Longford how a letter of yours to Mr. Secretary Coventry has been shewed the Council, and how it has been inverted, and reports spread abroad as if you did undervalue this Plot, and apprehended in the bottom a fanatic design. These artifices are to be expected from a sort of men who have all their lives practised them. At the same time there was a great noise of Waterford and Kinsale's being surprised by the Irish. The King said that the authors of this report wanted intelligence of the prorogation, for that it was certainly raised to inflame some in the Parliament; for those lies, though found out, yet would serve a present turn. I send you here enclosed a letter from St. Helene to my Lord Chamberlain, upon which you will be pleased to consider what measures to take as to James. For his own son I hear he is an admirable officer and did all the business of my Lord Alington's regiment [in which] he has served: and if you could get him an employment in the army, such as a lieutenant of horse, he would be very useful as an adjutant in case of action. I do expect my wife this night from Knowsley, whither my Lord of Derby is gone. I know not if he is satisfied with me. I am sure I have no reason to be so with him. But this I do conceal, and shall live fairly with him, unless his brutality and ill usage of my daughter forces me to the contrary. If you be not engaged I beseech you to lend me your lodgings in the Castle of Windsor, whither the King will soon go.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1679, June 3, Dublin.—Whilst affairs of that high consequence were in agitation in England, I had little reason to expect that those of this place, which so much depend on determinations there, could be taken into that consideration which they require, and I hope will now be allowed them.

Your lordship will find by the enclosed extracts taken out of the Establishment of this Kingdom and His Majesty's instructions to me, ordered by advice of His Majesty's then Privy Council, what difficulty it is that obstructs my giving present obedience to His Majesty's command signified to me in your lordship's of the 27th of the last month for the payment of Mr. Hyde's pension. And that your lordship may the better understand the reason, and indeed necessity of suspending the payment of all pensions till His Majesty's Revenue shall be increased so as to support the necessary parts of the Government by the payment of the Civil and Military Lists, I send your lordship also a state of the Revenue of this Kingdom as it now stands, and a prospect of it to and at the end of the present farm, upon supposition

that the Farmers shall continue to make full and punctual payment of their rent, and that neither by accident or His Majesty's command any further charge shall fall upon the Revenue. This computation and prospect takes no notice of the stop of pensions (which yet for this year must be applied towards the discharge of the Civil and Military Lists), because I suppose that out of what overplus shall accrue the next year His Majesty may think fit the arrears of pensions should be paid : neither on the other hand is there any notice taken how short the money allotted under the name of concordatums will certainly fall to answer the ends enumerated under that head of the Establishment, which ends must be left unprovided for, how necessary soever they are for the preservation of this kingdom, or the Establishment must be exceeded, and by so much in consequence the overplus expected about a year hence will be abated and retarded. All this is not to obstruct the effect of His Majesty's grace and favour to Mr. Hyde, which I heartily wish him, but to shew that the Establishment upon which the new regiment is by His Majesty's command placed from about the 10th of March last cannot be paid together with the pensions, but that the whole Army must run into proportionable arrear, a thing I would if it lay in my power avoid, because I would also avoid the imputation of its falling into arrear in the time of my Government, with which I have heretofore been charged, tho' I could then no more help it than I can now. If it shall still be His Majesty's pleasure that this or any other pension shall be paid, it will be obvious to your lordship that his commands for it should particularly take notice of and dispense with those parts of his Establishment and instructions which directly oppose it, and that I conceive with the same solemnity and advice the Establishment and instructions were drawn and ordered.

— to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, June 5.—Since my last very little has occurred here, more than that yesterday upon report from the Attorney-General of the evidence they had against the prisoners in custody upon account of the Plot, and who have not been impeached in Parliament, the Council ordered that those nine against whom they have above one witness to prove them guilty of the Plot should be tried at the Sessions House at the Old Bayly upon Tuesday the 17th instant ; the names of whom are Thomas Whitebread, John Fenwicke, William Harcourt, Richard Langhorne senior, Sir George Wakeman, William Marshall, John Garven, Anthony Turner and William Rumley, and for the rest the Council will suddenly consider what to do with them, in order to which the Committee of Examinations sit every day, and those persons whom the evidence is not very clear and strong against they permit to return to their houses upon bail, as Sir Francis Ratcliffe and others,

and the rest remain in custody till further matter comes in against them.

Mr. Pepys and Sir Anthony Deane continue in custody, the *Habeas Corpus* (upon debate thereof) being disallowed. Into Mr. Pepys his place in the Admiralty is admitted Mr. Hayter (one of the Clerks of the Acts of the Navy Office), but the Treasuryship of the town of Tangier he desires if possible to hold.

The King and Court go to Windsor next week, and remain there till the Parliament meet, which it is said will certainly be at the day.

The Lords in the Tower are now kept as close as before, and nobody to visit them without leave from the Council.

The King has lately had a design to add Sir Christopher Musgrave, Sir Tho. Littleton and Sir William Hickeman unto Sir Thomas Chicheley to assist him in executing the office of Ordnance; but Sir Thomas refusing to be joined with them, but rather to resign his place, it is not known how it will go. The Earl of Sunderland has sold his office of one of the Gentlemen of the King's Bedchamber to the Earl of Ranelagh for 6,000*l.*, who is accordingly admitted into it. The report has been all this and last week that the Duke of York was coming home again: but there is nothing of it nor of the story of an Order in Council against the same, and indeed many malicious reports have been lately spread, which have (thanks be to God) proved untrue.

June the 7th, 1679.—Yesterday was a Council, and at it the King ordered his going to Windsor on Tuesday next, that on Thursday 7th night the Council should be held at Hampton Court, and for the future (during the King's stay) it should there be held once a week. It was then ordered that the trial of the nine men should be on Friday next, and accordingly Mr. D[obliterated] and Mr. Bedloe (who had got leave to go [into the] country were sent for back. To night an Extraordinary Council was had upon advice from Scotland of the rising of the fanatics there, who after the death of the Bishop of St. Andrew's (whom they barbarously murdered) and doing other horrid crimes, met altogether, and upon the King's birthday violently seized upon all the records relating to the Objuration of the Covenant and burned them, and then drew up a Declaration in the name of Jesus in which they assert the legality of the late Covenant, and adjure all other powers as apostates to it, and so armed themselves and took the field to the number of 1,500 men, whom some of the King's Troops of Dragoons attacked [and w]ere beaten and driven by them to the gates of Glasgow, where the Royal party fortifying themselves made such a stout resistance that they had beat them off, though with the loss of few of the rebels: but in the royal party two captains, and an ensign, and many men: since which we know nothing, but hourly expect to hear more. The

Declaration was this night read in Council, and thereupon some resolutions taken, that it's hoped may put a stop to this dangerous design. It's said some of the persons that murdered the Bishop headed these villains and declared their design to be to kill any of them in the country. I am weary of writing this unpleasant news.

SIR ROBERT HOWARD to ORMOND.

1679, June 5, Exchequer.—I have endeavoured to get the best account I can upon the whole proceedings of my Lord Ranelagh since I last writ to your Grace, who is now become a Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber in the place of my Lord Sunderland, which I suppose he has purchased in order to stay here, according to which design he obtained a hearing at Council Tuesday morning last, where he pretended to make it clear that the whole business was as fit and proper to be heard here as in Ireland: but I found then and since he did not convince the Council in the least, who continue of the judgment that the business must be properly determined in Ireland. I do not doubt notwithstanding that there will be great endeavours used to obtain the favour to stop my Lord Ranelagh's journey, which I shall endeavour to observe with my best care and diligence.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 7, Whitehall.—This week brought me three from your Grace of the 25, 27, 28 of May. The first I shewed the Council, it relating to my Lord Ranelagh's accompts, who, as I told you in my last of the 31st of May, hath petitioned the King and Council for a revocation of the order for his and his partner's going. But yesterday at the Committee for Irish Affairs he confessed that the accompts were not final, and that they could be determined no way but by remitting them to Ireland, and that he would suddenly go in person. I suppose upon the report of the Committee your Grace will have particular orders from the Council how to proceed, and the *quære* in your letter answered how to proceed against such as have no estate in Ireland. The letter for Mr. Gascoigne is signed. Sir Charles Meredith hath been several days in town, but I only saw him accidentally in the Bed-Chamber, but have received no visit nor had any conference with him, much less information from him. Our news from Scotland is bad, though I cannot tell you the particulars, but the Dissenters are up in arms. I pray God keep them quiet elsewhere. We have had a Council about the Scotch Affairs this day, but little resolved: neither do these first letters give us enough to make a true state of the business. All that is in them is that a company of horse with some Dragoons went to disperse a conventicle, but met with 1,500 armed men horse and foot, and were forced to retire

with the loss of eight or ten of their Dragoons. The rebels have put forth a godly rebellious declaration declaring the King an usurper, and declare the Acts of Parliament null that restored him. After their first success they entered Glasgow, but were repulsed by the Lord Rosse with loss, and the militia was assembled by the Council, and if they prove faithful it is to be hoped they may by this time be dissipated.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, June 9, Dublin.—Your Grace directed me to write to Mr. Worth to know the reason why they of Cork refused to trust those of my Lord Dumbarton's regiment as well as others. The enclosed from Mr. Worth, which is in return to mine, will give your Grace an account of that matter. I send your Grace the enclosed out of the North, they came to my hands several hours after your Grace had left this town.

[Encloses the three following letters.]

WILLIAM WORTH to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, June 6, Cork.—In a former letter I hinted to your Grace what apprehensions the people of this country had upon the landing of my Lord Dumbarton's regiment here: but since I find they are better satisfied with those soldiers, and believe them to be other sort of men than they were at first represented. And I could never learn that this city had any unkindness for them, or that they would not trust them, for I have discoursed with several of the most considerable persons here, and they have not the least fears that way; and this afternoon the Mayor and Sheriffs of this city being at my house (and discoursing about the report here that some of the companies of that regiment which were quartered in this city were to be commanded away) they told me that they were confident the whole town was unwilling to part with them, except my Lord Lieutenant should think fit to remove them to make way for English companies to be quartered in their room: and that the generality of the citizens would much rather have these companies continued here than to have any others of that regiment put in their stead, or to have no more than the former English companies which were in this garrison, they being fewer than we would willingly quarter: and I cannot find out the least grounds any sober man has to distrust the men that are in this garrison, the officers being generally very obliging and civil, strict in minding their duty, and keeping the private soldiers under a strict discipline, so that as few disorders are committed by them as possibly could be expected from those who had been soldiers in foreign parts and accustomed to wars.

DAVID MAXWELL to Dr. JOHN COGHILL.

1679, June 6.—I have received yours of the 31st of May, and wrote two posts before that more fully than I had done.

I am of opinion that no discourse can be made now in this place of anything concerning the murder of the late Primate of Scotland, for one Mr. Hugh Campbell, who himself is a rigid Presbyterian and communicates with them, having received a letter employing him in that search, as I am informed did immediately communicate it to the Presbyterian Minister of Donaghadee (from whom he can conceal nothing), and he immediately to his brethren in Scotland, and this, I believe, has made fewer passengers come this way. I think Mr. Hodson, Collector of His Majesty's Revenues at Donaghadee, and these of the same employment at other ports here, since they are sons of the Church and truly loyal, might be as fit for doing things of that nature as any. I have adventured to bespeak them in this affair, and have procured some general warrants for them, by virtue whereof they may seize such as they suspect.

The Presbyterians here did not come to the parish churches according to the proclamation upon the fast day, but diverted the people from their obedience, some of them did not abstain from work, and for the 29 of May none of them observed it, unless it was of purpose to profane it, for all shops were open, and all hands at work, so that we had but very few at church. But as to that which ye desire to know, at Donaghadee one Patrick Peacock is conventicler, a cunning and dangerous man; at Bangor there is one Archibald Hamilton, little better; at Newtown there is one Thomas Kennedy, a perfect firebrand; at Cumber there is one James Gordon, violent enough; at Ballywalter there is one Hugh Red, factious enough but very silly; at Portaferry there is one John Drysdale, the soberest amongst them; at Killyleagh there is one Ferguson, the most dangerous of all; at Killinchy one Michael Bruce; at Taunaghneev one Alexander Hutcheson; at Knock one Hugh Wilson; at Kirkdonald there is one Cobbum [? Cochburn]; at Holywood one Waugh; at Downpatrick there is one Young; at Ballye one John Hamilton; at Killmeaginie one Alexander Gordon; all men of the same hot and factious spirits, and there are four or five young men who are schoolmasters in the country and are before the Presbytery trying their abilities that they may whensoever there is any vacancy be ready to sally forth. Their names are, at Killyleagh John McBryd, at Newtown Robert Hamilton, at Cumber one Ferguson; there are also at Newtown one John Hutcheson, who teaches philosophy and trains up their young cubs, and one James Gordon, formerly a weaver who hath left his looms and professes the mathematics; he also resolves to turn preacher. Their numbers are great at their conventicles five or six hundred communicants in one day, and some places a thousand. When they convene at their Presbyteries what else they employ themselves about beside entering their young ones I know not. I believe not much good. But they look upon themselves as a Court

of Record, and do keep a registry of all their acts. Their clerk as I am informed is one Hugh Wilson of Knock; if he were surprised and his books searched, a full discovery, I believe, might be made of their actions, but I am afraid it's either too late or too soon to talk of this. I cannot keep correspondence safely and to purpose at this time with any in Scotland: for, besides the confusion that Kingdom is in, the packet boat between Portpatrick and Donaghadee is kept by Mr. Campbell* (although I think at present he hath no salary allowed him for it); so that it may well serve the interest of the Presbyterians, but I dare not trust anything of mine in that bottom. But it is reported by such as come from thence that one Laird Clavers, who commands a troop, hath taken a conventicle; the preacher is in prison and all the men, he only took an account of the women's names. There are some great persons such as the Earl of Dundonald and the President of Scotland, my Lord Stair, and a third who are sent for to London, but here we have no discourse of the cause. Some say the Archbishop of Glasgow hath been attempted or had warning given him that he would be so. The Lord in His mercy deliver us from the cruelty of these brethren of iniquity. I think it will be the safer way to direct my letters as ye did the second enclosed to Mr. Lovell, who will send it safe to me. I follow the same course in sending yours. My seal which I seal all to you with is two cross bars and a mallet. I make no question but ye like a long letter as ill as most men do a long sermon.

SAME to SAME.

1679, June 8.—Here are just now arrived two conformable ministers of the Church of Scotland, who have fled from their country for fear of the rebels there, who are now so numerous that they believe there will be ten thousand this day in arms in the west. Welsh is their general, and they do openly declare that they will march straight to Edinburgh to relieve their imprisoned brethren and seize the city. Most of the nobility of any note in that kingdom are in London, and this time they have chosen for their insurrection. Those ministers who are now here at Newtown had their horses and their servants' arms taken from them by the rebels. I believe Sir Robert Colvill will send with this messenger their examinations to my Lord Lieutenant, and there the relation will be more full. I writ to you an answer of your last dated the 31 of May by the Saturday's post, which I believe will be with you to-morrow. I enclosed it into one to Mr. Lovell for security, for I fear Belfast to be no secure post for our letters. We had news yesterday that the Laird of Clavers, an honest gentleman in Scotland, captain to a troop of horse, who hath done good service against the rebels, was killed by them, but these gentlemen affirm the contrary. Now their

* See Vol. IV., p. 22

designs, as they think, are ripe and will take effect, I pray God disappoint them. Sir, I am resolved no opportunity shall offer when I have anything worth your knowledge to write.

Postscript.—A party of the rebels did upon the 29 of May at Ringland, within two miles of Glasgow, proclaim the Covenant and burned the Oath of Supremacy and Allegiance.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 10, Whitehall.—Since my last to your Grace of the 6th instant, I have received one from you of the 3rd of this month, which though His Majesty had not leisure to peruse at large, yet I acquainted him with the particular of quartering of soldiers, at which he is not a little offended. The disorders of Scotland that have been long feared by some and slighted by others now appear formidable; 8,000 of the desperatest and worst sort of fanatics being in a body, and have forced the King's troops to retire and abandon Glasgow, upon which His Majesty hath ordered the levying of betwixt five and six thousand fresh men here under the Duke of Monmouth to oppose them. Your Grace is likewise desired to send soon what men you can spare in Ireland, and that I may not mistake in my commission I send you the copy of the Order in Council upon that point.

I send your Grace likewise a copy of the Order in Council concerning my Lord Ranelagh and his partners, and their appearing forthwith in Ireland, either in person or by men sufficiently authorized, his lordship, notwithstanding what I wrote you in my last, having acknowledged that the accompt was not final and that it could be nowhere triable so properly as in Ireland, but only desired that if there should be any particular severities upon him he might have his appeal to the King and Council here, which was neither refused him nor granted him as to make part of the order, because there lieth an appeal to the Privy Council here (if they approve of the reasons it is demanded upon) to everybody. For what concerneth the pension I know nothing of it, nor hear of it; but if any mention be made of it shall not fail to shew your justifications of your proceeding.

Sir Charles Meredith hath not yet seen me, though I shewed my Lord of Essex the favourable letter you wrote in his behalf; since he thinks it not worth the trouble of desiring it, I have not thought fit to trouble the King with it, nor shall unless you command it.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, June 10.—I received yours of the 3rd of this month, but had not an opportunity of shewing it the King. By the news from Scotland you may imagine how much his thoughts are taken up. This morning he commanded me to be ready to go for Ireland, which I told him I should soon obey, but

I offered to his consideration if those regiments in Holland, which according to my articles were to be sent over according as His Majesty should order would not both in point of the goodness of them and also of time be of use in this juncture : ships he has in the Downs sufficient for their transportation ; this he promised to consider, and soon to resolve what course he would take. I need not mind you how much it concerns you in regard of the King, the kingdom you govern, and yourself well to consider of the safety of the north, and what number you can spare without hazarding the loss of the country intrusted to your care. This is all I have to say as yet. If before ten at night I learn anything worth your knowledge I shall not fail to impart it unto you.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, June 11, Kilkenny.—I received yours of the 31st of the last just as I was taking coach for this place on Monday last with two from my Lords of the Council, their commands in both either already are or shall be punctually obeyed as far as shall be in my power. This morning I received advertisement out of the North of great insurrections in Scotland, and of some encounters betwixt some of His Majesty's troops and the conventicling rebels. The actions are so particularized and the numbers in arms, that upon belief that there must be something more than ordinary in the matter, I have already sent orders to ten or eleven troops of horse to rendezvous at Charlemont by the end of this month, my Lord of Granard, Field Marshal, to command them, and I am myself hastening to Dublin from thence to send any further necessary orders or more troops if there shall be occasion. I have also ordered the frigate that has her station at Kinsale to sail with the first wind to the Bay of Dublin, to be ready to convoy men or ammunition or to lie betwixt Ireland and Scotland, as shall be thought fit. If there be any truth in what I am informed, I suppose the next packet out of England will bring me notice of it, and perhaps some directions how I am to govern myself in the meantime. I hope what I have done will receive His Majesty's approbation.

ORDER IN COUNCIL for DESPATCH of TROOPS to NORTH of IRELAND.

At the Court of Whitehall,

The 13th of June, 1679.

By the King's most Excellent Majesty and the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

It was this day ordered by His Majesty in Council that the Right Honourable Henry Coventry, Esquire, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, do forthwith signify His Majesty's pleasure to His Grace the Duke of Ormond, Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland, to give immediate order for the marching towards the North of Ireland of so many of His Majesty's forces there as well horse as foot, as his Grace thinks may conveniently be spared without hazard to the peace and safety of that Kingdom, there to remain ready and attend further orders if occasion shall be for their being employed in the assistance of His Majesty's subjects of His Kingdom of Scotland for suppressing the Rebellion there according to the humble desire of His Majesty's Council of the said Kingdom.

[Signed,] PHIL. LLOYD.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, June 13, Kilkenny. — Tho' I do not doubt His Majesty having more particular intelligence of the insurrection in the West of Scotland than I can send him : yet possibly the disorders committed by the fanatics just over against Ireland may not come to the knowledge of his Majesty's Council of Scotland so soon as to us here, those rebels having perhaps possessed themselves of the passages to Edinburgh. I therefore send you Sir Robert Colvill's letter to me, and the depositions of two ministers, who are fled into this kingdom to save their lives, which they say is all they can now call their own. I hope by the care of the state of Scotland, and by the loyalty of the King's subjects there this commotion will be soon suppressed, as some have formerly been. In that case the disaffected will be sure to seek shelter here, as the well affected have now done, and will certainly find it if they get over, for there are here divers of the same principles. I therefore humbly propose the immediate sending some more of His Majesty's ships to the Bay of Dublin to be employed as there shall be occasion. The force of such ships as shall be sent is submitted to the King's pleasure, and I conceive the least will serve, if there be any at Plymouth or that way they may soon be with us after orders are received.

REV. PETER DRELINCOURT to ORMOND.

1679, June 14, Oxford. — Il n'y a sans doute qu'un très profond respect pour votre grandeur et pour l'auguste fonction qu'elle exerce avec l'admiration de tout le monde qui m'empêche de luy rendre conte aussy souvent qu'à Madame votre illustre épouse de l'état et de la santé de Monsieur votre petit fils mon très cher Seigneur. Et j'ose me promettre de la justice et de la generosité naturelle de votre grandeur, qu'elle n'interprete pas autrement le silence forcé et respectueux que j'ay gardé avec elle depuis quelque tems. Mais, enfin Monseigneur mon devoir qui m'oblige de le rompre quelque fois m'engage à present de me donner l'honneur de dire à votre grandeur, que my Lord James continue, graces à Dieu, d'être fort gay, et en bonne santé

et qu'il fait assez joliment son devoir. Ses inclinations de pieté, de vertu et d'honêteté qui luy ont été communiquées en son illustre naissance, se fortifient heureusement de jour en jour au dedans, et se font paroître au dehors à ma tres grande joye et consolation. Il a visiblement profité dans son ecriture, et parle et lit tres bien en françois. Il apprend autant de latin que son inclination le permet et il fait des progresz assez considerables dans les mathematiques. Il a chaque jour une leçon d'histoire entremeslée de geographie, et à mesure que son jugement se formera, ses exercices seront plus importants et plus relevez.

Mais, Monseigneur j'espère que vôtre grandeur ne trouvera pas mauvais que je luy dise aussy librement que je fis il y a quelque tems à Madame touchant la santé de my lord, que quelque chose que nous puissions faire icy, son embonpoint qu'il a pris cet hyver à Londres (et que l'on trouve trop grand pour son âge) augmente plutôt que de diminuer. Suivant l'ordre de Madame la Duchesse j'ay consulté icy le plus fameux medecin que nous ayons, et que Monsieur nôtre bon Eveque m'a envoyé. Et quoy que mon cher Seigneur ayt été quelque tems dans les remedes sa plenitude n'en est pas moindre à present. Au jugement de ce docteur (aussy bien qu'a celuy d'autres) les remedes (ausquels en general il a tres grande aversion) netoyant son estomac eguisent son appetit qu'il a ordinairement tres bon, et quoy qu'il ne boive point de bruvage fort, et qu'il n'ayt que les repas ordinaires du colége le docteur dit qu'en general il croit que la nature des viandes et du bruvage du pays étant fort nourissantes engendrent plus d'humeurs que sa chaleur naturelle ne peut encore cuire et digerer parfaitement : qu'un air plus chaud plus sec et plus subtil (tel qu'est celuy d'Italie ou de la partie meridionale de la France) dissiperoit ses humeurs superflues, ayderoit et fortifieroit la chaleur naturelle de my lord et que la nourriture de ces pays plus chauds ne fourniroit pas chaque jour les cruditez dont il abonde : qu'une vie plus active et un plus grand exercice que celuy qu'il peut faire icy comme d'apprendre tous les matins à monter à cheval, à faire des armes, à dancier, à voltiger peuvent aussy contribuer beaucoup à rendre son corps sain, vigoureux et leger pour toute sa vie. J'eus l'honneur il y a quelque tems d'envoyer à Madame la Duchesse l'avis que le docteur m'envoyat ecrit de sa main, et qu'il jugea à propos d'être communiqué à Madame selon le comandement qu'elle m'en avoit fait.

¶ Pour ce qui est de la dépence de my lord je m'étudie icy à joindre l'honesteté à la frugalité, au bon ménage et à éviter les depences inutiles : les contes en sont et seront touiours clairs s'il plait à Dieu, et prêts à rendre devant qui il plaira à vôtre grandeur d'ordonner. Je la supplie tres humblement d'être pleinement persuadée que j'apporte à la conservation et à l'avancement de mon cher seigneur tous les soins dont je suis capable et que la conscience et un zèle tres sincère et

treardsent pour l'illustre famille à laquelle ilr appartient et pour sa personne en particulier peuvent inspire.

My lord assure icy vôtre grandeur et Madame de ses obeissances.*

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, June 14, Blessinton.—I have received the honour of your Grace's of the 11th instant, and have presumed to send your Grace the enclosed from Mr. Maxwell (one of our northern correspondents), though it says little more than what your Grace have received from other hands. I hope things are not so bad in Scotland as they are represented by the fears of those who fled away upon the first alarm: though I doubt they are ill enough, and will require some thorough and steady resolutions to suppress them: such as those were the beginnings of our troubles before 1641. I heartily pray that the like design be not now in preparation.

I presume likewise to trouble your Grace with two letters which I received this last packet out of England, which refers much to the same matter, but puts in other particulars besides, of all which I doubt not but your Grace have had a very exact accompt from other hands, but having heard your Grace say that some observations may be made upon the several ways of representing matters by divers hands, I have adventured upon your Grace's pardon for this presumption.

[The enclosures referred to have not been preserved.]

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 14, Whitehall.—Since my last to your Grace of the 10th of this month, wherein I told you of an order of Council for the appearance of my Lord Ranelagh and his partners, but at eleven of the clock at night His Majesty sent down to the Office that the order should be stopped till it should be further considered of. I gave accompt of it to the Council, but upon their reiterated instances the order was again renewed, and I send it you here enclosed.

I sent your Grace likewise by my last to see what men you could spare to assist the King's party in Scotland if need should be: there is since another order passed concerning that, which I send you here enclosed. There is no action since my last passed in Scotland, at least that we know of; but about this time the King's party there are expected to be numerous and superior in number to the rebels, who want the necessary supplies of good arms and ammunition, at least as we are informed. Our judges are very busy upon the trial of those Commoners that have been accused of the Plot. Yesterday there were five condemned, but not one acquitted, and to-day they are busy upon the same work. Some motion to call the Parliament before the 14th of August, but what the King's resolution will be I cannot yet tell you; a victory in Scotland would be very seasonable.

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

Postscript.—My Lord of Essex seemeth very much concerned about a sum of 13,000*l.* that the Farmers had promised for a particular payment to the army just before his leaving the Government. He farther sayeth he had the King's order under his sign manual for the doing it, that he left the order with your Grace, and took a promise from you that it should be punctually performed, but that after his departure it was neglected, and when some of those concerned pressed the execution of the promise, answer was made by my Lord Lanesborough that it was a debt contracted in the Earl of Essex his time, and what had your Grace to do to look after it, or words to this effect. Of this he speaks with more resentment than usual, and to me very warmly, and intends to press to have a particular order for it. Mr. Langhorne is this day condemned and sentence of death passed upon him.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, June 14th, London.—The letters which came yesterday by the ordinary from Scotland (from whence there has yet come but one express) tell us that the rebels, since the repulse they had received from my Lord Rosse at Glasgow, which his lordship soon after quitted with His Majesty's forces (being five companies of foot, two troops of horse, and one of dragoons), had taken possession of that town and were with their main body three miles nearer to Edinburgh; that they have ebbs and flows, some quitting them and others resorting to them, and that my Lord Linlithgow having with about 2,700 men of His Majesty's forces marched within three miles of them, and understanding their number to be about 8,000, thought it not convenient with so small and disproportionable force to engage so numerous and desperate a body, and therefore retreated to Stirling, having first given an account of his resolution to the Lords of the Council, who approving of his cautious and prudent method of proceeding, directed him to retreat to Edinburgh, and in the meantime issued out a proclamation requiring all the heritors in several counties to appear with all their servants and followers well armed to join with His Majesty's forces in the suppressing of these rebels. This is the day of their rendezvous, and when they meet and join they compute their number and His Majesty's forces together will make up 7,000 foot and 1,000 horse, upon whose appearing together the Lords of the Council there are of opinion the rebels will disperse, which I wish may prove true. For as the report is from several hands they appear very obstinate, and being confident of their own strength and party, will not permit any to be amongst them who have taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, or who have heard the Common Prayer and received the Sacrament according to the Church of England, or who own Episcopacy and have paid tithes to the Church

as it is now established. If it be true that they impose these qualifications upon themselves His Majesty's affairs must certainly thrive the better for them, for these restrictions must reduce their party within a narrow compass and engage the nobility and gentry with all zeal imaginable against them. The Scotch Lords who are here have made several addresses to the King against my Lord Duke Lauderdale upon this occasion, and being required to give them in writing they adventured to shew His Majesty their paper, wherein they complained of great grievances, but instanced in no particulars. They propose the new modelling of the whole Council there, upon whom and their ill conduct they seem to lay the blame of this insurrection, and though they aim at my Lord Lauderdale, yet they neither name him nor describe him. His Majesty's answer was that to comply with their proposition was to overthrow the government of that kingdom, and though they complain of exorbitant grievances, yet they make out none. This is the truest scheme I can give your Grace of the affairs of Scotland both there and here, only that the Duke of Monmouth goes thither to-morrow post by three in the morning, which has amused the new officers, because their levies are not yet completed. My Lord Cavendish amongst the rest is much to seek, the account of affairs in Scotland being so dark and the reason of the Duke of Monmouth's so sudden journey into Scotland being unknown, that he cannot tell what measures to take. My Lord Grey of Werke has waived his regiment and withdrawn himself from this expedition. I suppose your Grace will by this packet receive His Majesty's directions about the sending both of horse and foot from thence to join with the new levies here before their entering into Scotland, but they are not so positive as to lessen the strength there if your Grace has any apprehension of any stirs there. For my own part I am very uneasy in my own thoughts at my absence from your Grace in this conjuncture, being convinced that both my duty and honour call upon me at this time to give His Majesty an undeniable proof of my loyalty, which I am resolved to do if matters grow to extremity, notwithstanding His Majesty has given me leave to attend here for the arrival of East India ships, by which I expect a return from thence of my brother's effects, and cannot till their arrival receive near four thousand pounds now in the Company's hands.

I suppose by this packet your Grace will receive the resolutions of the Council here in the affair of my Lord Ranelagh's accounts, which had gone to your Grace by the last Tuesday's packet, but that his lordship by a trick at eleven of the clock at night prevailed with His Majesty to send to Mr. Secretary Coventry to stop them, which the Council on Wednesday so resented that they unanimously made it their earnest desire to His Majesty that no more delays might be interposed, his lordship having freely consented to the Order of the Council, to

which His Majesty consented. But yet my Lord Ranelagh last night said he would not go for Ireland : and his partners here at a meeting they had with him three days since declared they would not sign the account as final unless the 24,000*l.* which was borrowed of His Majesty was left out as a debt upon them, for it having being borrowed by his lordship and paid out by his direction without their privity, they will not have it part of their charge. This nettles my Lord Ranelagh to the heart, and they are now upon very ill terms amongst themselves.

Since the rebellion in Scotland, it has been in debate whether His Majesty should call the Parliament to meet sooner than the 14th of August, to which time it was prorogued. But because it is alleged if they meet sooner they cannot act to do anything as a Parliament (as happened formerly in the case of Chatham), I think the thoughts of their meeting sooner are for the present laid aside.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, June 17, Dublin.—Yours of the 10th met me on the way coming hither from Kilkenny. In Mr. Secretary's of the same date I received an Order of Council requiring me to give my op[inion] what men might with safety of the kingdom be spared hence for the service of Scotland, a question too dangerous for me to give a positive answer unto. The number of the army is known there, and the constitution of the kingdom in relation to Papists and fanatics has been heretofore represented, so that the judgment belonging to the King, and obedience only to me, I have not taken upon me to determine the matter. But I shall by the next post send orders to draw to this place and hereabouts 2,000 foot and 300 horse. If the King shall command them out of the kingdom they shall be ready ; if he do not, they shall yet be kept together for some time, and even so they will be some disturbance to the rebels, who will not know when they may be thrown over upon them. The want of money, which is like to frustrate your endeavours in England, hangs as heavy upon us here ; but this is no time to lament our want of providence, but to strive to get out of the difficulties we are in. There will not be time to send you a copy of what I [wrote] Mr. Secretary in return to the Order of Council, but if you are there when it comes to his hands he will let you see it. The uncertainty of that would keep me from writing more if [I had] more to say.

————— BONELL to MR. WATTS.

1679, June 17, London.—My last was of the 14th instant, since which an express came to the Lord Lauderdale yesterday of the 14th instant, the contents private. But several letters of the 10th which came this morning tell us that the

rebels were about 20,000 strong, and increase daily ; that they eat up the country ; that they ranged near Edinburgh and swept away all the horse they could find ; that the King's forces durst not encounter them that went also within twelve miles of Barwicke and took all the horse and arms they could meet with ; so that the people do now bring their horses into that town for safety ; that all are up in most parts of Scotland ; that trade ceaseth, men neither buy nor sell, receive nor pay money, and other things of this nature. We have another proclamation reprinted here of the Privy Council of Scotland, which makes the rebels very active, and their design dangerous, but name not their strength, which require all heritors and proprietors of land and their servants to meet at such and such places under such and such officers, upon such and such days on horseback, but have not thought fit to raise the foot militia, it's said for fear of the worst : that is lest they should march away to the rebels, but such as owe knight's service, etc., to the King. At Edinburgh they keep watch we hear, and are afraid lest the young men should slip away to them likewise. We hear they beat the drum for foot forces, but the mischief is that our forces must not go into Scotland (and yet it's feared the King's party cannot else be strong enough for them, so general an insurrection there is) by reason of the Act of Pacification between both kingdoms, whereby the English are declared traitors that march into Scotland, even by an English Act, if they invade or march armed into Scotland, unless the Parliament of Scotland invites them in, and Scotland is equally obliged from doing the like, unless the Parliament of England invites them thereunto, which is the cause that several lords here who were appointed by our Privy Council to march into Scotland have refused to serve for fear of that treason trap, insomuch that all our forces raised or to be raised are said to march only to our borders next Scotland to prevent the worst : neither have the officers got any commissions, nor dare, they say, receive any, which must needs encourage the rebels and weaken His Majesty's forces. These Whigs, as they call them, or fanatics, have many ministers among them that blow up the coals. The Lord Athol told the King that if these forces went into Scotland all the kingdom would as one man rise against them upon that said Act of Pacification. The Duke of Monmouth went hence yesterday by three in the morning to Scotland, who, it's thought, hath Lauderdale's employment of Lord Commissioner, for he is Plenipotentiary to pardon, treat and relax them of their burthens, as he shall see cause ; else I hear he would not have gone on that errand. There are about twelve of the Scottish nobility come to accuse Duke Lauderdale to the King, and they have plied it hard. It is said that Lord Privy Seal is to give it in on their behalfs to the Privy Council here : so that it is thought he will be laid aside, and more than so too. The Duke

of Monmouth is said to be an adversary to Lauderdale, and that by reason of his demeanour in Scotland Duke Monmouth hath great arrears of rent then it's thought will produce a Parliament in Scotland, but whether the Whigs will acquiesce and lay down their arms till they have full satisfaction for their civil and religious concernments, it is much doubted. A party of the King's forces met with about 150 of the rebels going to their comrades in arms, who cut off above fifty of the said rebels and took the rest. Some fanatics are so wild as to think the pretended forcing of the Scots thus to rise is part of the Plot, and withal a specious pretence to keep up a standing army, but I will leave that and only tell you that Lord Shaftesbury said they deserved to be hanged that had put the King upon such undertakings. The debate concerning the raising of these new forces for Scotland was great I hear in the Privy Council, and the rather because against the Act of Pacification above mentioned. At length it was carried unanimously, except Lord Shaftesbury, who opposed it still, unless (he said) the King would promise to call both the Parliaments of England and Scotland within forty days, that so they might approve of what the Council should direct in this interval, for he would (he said) never undertake to act as a representative of the people in that Council. And at the same Council there being mention made of a Commonwealth (how it was brought in I cannot say), but Lord Shaftesbury thought fit to speak to it in the King's presence, and said if the King so governed as that his estate might with safety be transmitted to his son, as it was by his father to him, and he might enjoy the known rights and liberties of the subjects, he would rather be under kingly government, but if he could not be satisfied of that he declared he was for a Commonwealth: this a member of the Commons told me from Lord Shaftesbury's own mouth. I shall need say no more of the late condemned traitors, all of them for plotting the King's death, only that the warrant the same night they were condemned was sealed for their execution on Friday next, the 20th instant. If Sir George Wakeman had been tried then as was designed (for which end he was in the Court), the business of the Queen would have come upon the stage. It was therefore, some say, put off, others because the Commission of Oyer and Terminer was expired, others because (it is generally reported) he will confess all, but how true time must show. Bedloe said that if the Queen dies not we must die, meaning the other evidences with him: but those gentlemen will not be mealy mouthed when it comes to the point. Southwark, Westminster, and other places refuse to quarter these new raised forces for Scotland, and that even to the King's and Council's faces, so stiff were they claiming the benefit of the late Act for disbanding the late forces. We hear now that the Court gives out as if those letters from Scotland made as if things would be appeased there, but others believe it not; neither are

the commissions for the officers signed, nor will the Lord Grey, Lord Russell, nor Lord Cavendish accept of theirs. In fine the Court report no particulars, and it is said that the Scots are in a good condition, time will inform better.

Enclosed :—"Copy of letter sent Mr. Watts from London."

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 17, Whitehall.—Since my last to your Grace here hath little happened worth notice. Your letter for the fine for repairing Christchurch I shall get signed to-morrow. I here enclosed send you the copy of the Order of Council directing me to write to your Grace concerning a complaint made against those that work at your fort at Kinsale. The order will tell you what is expected from your Grace in that matter. My Lord of Essex hath got a new letter wrote out upon the old copy concerning the payment of those soldiers I mentioned in my last, and I believe it will pass the Council to-morrow to come to you by the Saturday's post. Our news from Scotland is a little more cheerful than it was, the rebels not being as yet headed by any considerable persons, neither is their number increased, they having attempted to rise in Fife and some other places, but were suddenly suppressed. The Duke of Monmouth, it is thought will be there by to-morrow at night. He went hence upon Sunday morning, and resolved great diligence.

EARL OF ANGLESEY to ORMOND.

1679, June 17, London.—I have formerly interceded for your Grace's justice with favour about the lapse money, wherein I have a share of 3,000*l.*, whereof I never had more need, having lately married a daughter and agreed for a portion, but God knows noways provided to pay it but by this sum, which your Grace's kindness (now all surveys and the distribution of the particular sums on those who are to pay it are ready) may quickly make ready money: and will highly oblige your old servant who decays apace, and would gladly die out of debt after long painful service to His Majesty and the public. I beseech your Grace therefore to have some regard to me herein. I hope the business of Scotland will get over without putting Ireland to spare any forces thither. I send your Grace enclosed the copy of a letter of Duke Lauderdale's, the contents whereof seem to have raised this flame and are much jealousied here, being now under consideration at Council.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, June 17.—By the news from Scotland I hope that tumult will be soon over. However I doubt not but you will be cautious in answering the letter concerning your opinion what forces with safety you can spare from Ireland, since

I believe the number of those you have it were to be wished were rather augmented than diminished. This afternoon Mrs. Price, a daughter-in-law of Colonel Jeffrys, died suddenly in my wife's outward room. She only called Daniel, my *valet de chambre*, to hinder her from falling, and just as he gave her that assistance she expired in his arms without speaking a word. I have not any further trouble now to give you.

HENRY BALL to VISCOUNT GRANARD.

1679, June 18, Charlemont.—There came yesterday to my hands directions from Sir George Rawdon to several gentlemen in these parts, grounded upon an order from his Grace my Lord Lieutenant to provide quarter in this town, and Ardmagh and places adjacent, for eleven troops who are to come down under your lordship's command, which directions I immediately sent to those concerned, and by the return of my messenger finds that to-morrow is appointed a meeting at Ardmagh to consider of that affair, and doubts not but care will be taken to provide as well for them as the country will afford.

My Lord, the wants of this place has been viewed and returned by several, but are not yet supplied: wherefore I conceived it my duty (especially in these times) humbly to represent the greatest of them to your honour, beseeching you be pleased to acquaint his Grace with them. Besides the decay of some of our out earthworks, the gate of the fort is very faulty, the carriages of our guns are rotten and un-serviceable; we want bullets for them, we have no store-house for arms, ammunition or provision; nor any reception for men as to lodgings but this little castle, where our present store of arms and ammunition is lodged, though very unproperly. This trouble I have presumed to give your lordship in discharge of the trust reposed in me, which I humbly beg you would be pleased to pardon.

EARL OF ORRERY to ORMOND.

1679, June 20, Castlemartyr.—The 18th instant as Captain Douglas and Captain Campbell (both garrisoned at Youghal) were riding together to go a-hunting, on some words which passed between them, Captain Campbell alighted, drew his sword, and then Captain Douglas did the like; but before they could be parted they fought, and Captain Campbell was killed.

A lieutenant of that regiment who quarters two miles off, and who had endeavoured to part them, came immediately to me with the account of this sad affair, and to know from Captain Douglas what I would order him to do, which he was ready to obey. I examined the said lieutenant, whose name is White, and one Skinner, a soldier of White's, who were both present, and who told me the whole passages.

I appointed Captain Douglas to deliver himself up to the King's justice, and I sent for two of the next Justices of the Peace to proceed in all things according unto law. I ordered the Coroner to be sent for and the dead body to lie where it was, till all the law required was done, which was performed accordingly. The Coroner's inquest, and what they found, I here humbly present your Grace. The justices have taken Major Hacket (who I sent for to Cork) and Captain Muncrieth's bail for Captain Douglas, who I have ordered not to go to his command until your Grace's pleasure be known concerning him, which I humbly beg to receive. This accident is the sadder, because these gentlemen were always dear friends. I cannot yet possibly learn what occasioned this quarrel, but it is evident that Campbell was the aggressor, and that Douglas must either be killed or draw.

Tho' three companies be quartered at Youghal, yet the chief officer there is a lieutenant whose name is Rivers. I have ordered him to be the more vigilant, lest the quarrel of the captains might infect their soldiers. I cannot in duty but humbly acquaint your Excellency that there has been of late at least five or six duels in this regiment between the officers of it, and one duel between the private soldiers. I have therefore spoken to the Major and some of the captains my sense thereof, and assured them that the first who either sent or received a challenge should be proceeded against according to the rules of war. And I humbly offer to your Excellency, whether it may not be fit for your Grace to publish prohibitions against duelling, and to appoint severe penalties to be inflicted on such as shall hereafter transgress. Major Hacket is extremely troubled thereat, and protests he never knew such duelling in the regiment all the while they were beyond sea as there has been within this fortnight. I have reason to believe this contagion will spread if not vigorously suppressed; and tho' they think to conceal such combats, yet I know three has happened within this fortnight, and not between the officers of that regiment, for I doubt our gentry look upon it as a fine mode, which may be imitated since it is not punished.

I had last night a letter from Captain Hodder signifying his arrival in Cork Harbour with the arms and ammunition your Grace has sent for the supply of the militia, which is very welcome. I have by an express desired Mr. Robinson to have it landed, and have acquainted the Commissioners of Array with the arrival of it, that those who want may know (for their money) where to be supplied. Captain Hodder writes to me that coming into the harbour at Cork by accident he fell on another ship, and has so broken the head of his own ship that he must go to Kinsale to repair her.

In such threatening times as these are I esteem it my duty humbly and heartily to assure your Excellency that in whatever concerns His Majesty's service I will most cheerfully

employ all the interest I have in the world and my life and fortune in the duty of it, and according to those commands which from time to time your Grace shall honour me with you shall receive a perfect obedience.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, June 21.—All affairs being in suspense until we see what becomes of those in Scotland I did not judge it proper as yet to discourse with His Majesty upon the subject of your letter of the 3rd, but shall by the first opportunity shew him both that and yours of the 13th, which I received yesterday. You will find my sense, in a letter I lately writ to you, wherein I spoke concerning the Council's inquiring what forces you could spare, to be the same with yours. I wish the forces you have may be sufficient to keep quiet the kingdom you govern. As to what relates to the twelve pence deduction in the pound from the soldiers in the regiment late of the Earl of Dumbarton, I obeyed the King's commands, and as you have most reasonably objected to the manner of their being signified unto you, and which I ventured to say before the King that you would do, so I doubt not but when His Majesty will consider of what you have writ that he will either alter that resolution, or else give you commands in such forms as to justify your obeying them. The King is very generous and just in resenting the aspersions laid on the Queen, and is thinking how he may save her from being named by those who I think absolutely accuse her in what they charge Sir George Wakeman withal. This being a difficult and a nice thing, persons skilful in law affairs have under consideration what to offer to the King, wherein he will also have the advice of the Council, where the other day he spoke with all manner of detestation of those who would blemish her innocency, of which he said he was most sure, and would not suffer her to be unjustly scandalized.

EARL OF ESSEX to ORMOND.

1679, June 21, London.—When I left Ireland there was a letter of His Majesty's which directed the clearing of the remainder of the charge due on the Establishment at Christmas, 1675, which the Lord Ranelagh ought to have paid, but by reason of a balance on the then Farmers' accounts due to him he did not answer. This balance, as I hear, has most of it been remitted to the said Farmers by the late Lord Treasurer and part of the army, and other the payments due as aforesaid do remain yet unpaid. I well remember your Grace was pleased to promise me that letter of His Majesty's should be complied with, but nothing having been yet done thereupon, there is another letter goeth this post almost to the same effect with the former. I confess I am much concerned for those of the army who were not paid up with the

rest, as also for the undertakers of the clothing, who delivered the clothes at my instance without being paid for them, and indeed I conceive it much for His Majesty's service that this pay should be made good to them: the sum will be about 13,000*l.* or 14,000*l.* Wherefore I earnestly desire your Grace that you would please to order it, according as is directed in the letter, which, though I have not the least advantage by it, yet it shall be esteemed as a favour done to, etc.

REV. PETER DRELINCOURT to SIR R. SOUTHWELL.

1679, June 22, Oxford.—It is long since I owe you humble thanks for the honour of your good last letter. I do confess I am to blame for having been so backward in acquainting you myself with my lord's good health and progress in his studies (which I know your honour hath been informed of by other hands).

I think myself obliged to tell you now that tho' his lordship looks mighty well and be very cheerful, yet, considering his age, he is too fat, and of late groweth so more and more, whatever care hath been and is yet daily taken with the help and assistance of our best physicians here in order to the preventing of it. I have a while gone given a large account of my lord's condition in general and in this particular to my Lord and Lady of Ormond, and according to their Graces's desire and command sent them also the doctor's opinion and advice concerning my Lord James, which, if you please, I shall impart to you.

Concerning his lordship's studies I crave leave to tell your honour that he doth improve in the knowledge of the Latin tongue (if not as much as could be desired) yet as fast as his inclination to and love of it doth permit. Whatever his tutor (that comes to him and spends half an hour in the morning and as much in the afternoon with his lordship) gives to do, I sit by his lordship to help him in after and afore, and to see and make him perform his task, endeavouring to render it as familiar and easy as I can possibly, explaining and acting it over and over. He makes better progress in arithmetic, and the table he had perfectly to get by heart hath been for a while a hinderance in his going very fast in it (which now he doth). His lordship is daily instructed in history, intermixed with geography, and according to his age and capacity we hope to accomodate and to raise his studies. He writes something every day to strengthen his hand by degrees. For his exercises of piety he is very diligent and careful in, and I do study to cultivate and improve those happy seeds of virtue, honesty and loyalty which have been with a large and bountiful hand sowed in his soul. I have often represented his lordship how much like an honest and generous man (as well as a good Christian) it was heartily to forgive and endeavour to forget the past differences between him and Mr. Berkeley, and to strive to be more civil and better

friends to him than ever, and I thank God I find it happily come to pass, and they seem very good friends. Now for my lord's expenses, I study to practise your good advice and to keep frugality as well as honesty. I keep also an exact account of whatever is spent and how the money I receive goeth, which at any time shall be ready for whose view and inspection shall be thought fit. I have lately satisfied the upholsterer and given him three pounds ten shillings for his quarter. Last week my lord's table expenses and mine were paid. His lordship's since his being here come to a matter of eighteen pounds both for the ordinaries and extraordinaries of his table (and for what others may have battled upon him), mine in particular (eating, as you know, at a different table in the college) are under four pounds only for ordinaries, having never had anything besides the commons. His lordship desires to be heartily remembered to you and to Mr. Percival, to whom I present here my most humble service.

Postscript.—My Lord Bishop and my Lord Courcy are both very well.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, June 22, Dublin.—I had intimation that one Bonell is a constant and dangerous correspondent with the ill-affected here, whereupon I have sometime opened letters directed to Watts, who is but an ordinary merchant, and as I think the intelligence is intended by him to persons of more consideration. That which I send you herewith is the most important I have met with,* and you will observe that the superscription is not the same character with the letter. If letters directed to Bonell were looked into, possibly some other of his correspondents here might be discovered. I thought it not amiss to send you this letter, and leave you to consider what use to make of it.

23 June.—I am sorry all the pains I have taken to keep me in my Lord of Essex's favour are like to be lost, but when the order for the payment of the sum he mentions shall come, I hope it will appear I have not merited his displeasure in that particular or broken any promise I made, taking with it the conditions that must be implied in all promises: in the meantime that you may see something of the state of that matter, I send you what has passed betwixt Sir Cyril Wyche and me in it. I shall gather materials for a full narrative of it, and if after that I shall receive positive orders to allow of the payment of that sum out of the growing rent of the Farmers (of which there seems to me at this time so great and indispensable use) I can obey with much more pleasure than I can contend.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 24, Whitehall.—Your Grace's two letters of the 20th instant I have received this last post, and shewed both

* See p. 134 *supra*.

of them to His Majesty. As to the larger of them His Majesty is very well pleased with the conduct your Grace hath held, nor hath he as yet thought fit to give any farther orders till we hear something more decisive out of Scotland, from whence an express came yesterday, which brought letters from the Duke of Monmouth, which informed his Grace to be within a mile of the rebels with nigh double their force, they not being above 5,000 strong or thereabouts; so that every day we expect some news of considerable action or at least the dispersing of the rebels. As for your other letter, I find neither His Majesty nor the Commissioners of the Treasury, at least my Lord of Essex, at all disposed to it; we are so extremely bent upon retrenching that we very uneasily receive any proposition that augmenteth expense. A retrenchment more pinching than any of the former is hourly expected, as I suppose your officers of the Green Cloth have already informed you. We are very busy about the two contrary Plots, and meet difficulties enough how to avoid the increasing one disease whilst strive to overcome the other. We every day expect a peace betwixt France and Brandenburg, and then where the French army will fall is not known, but the States General are alarmed.

EARL OF ORRERY to ORMOND.

1679, June 24, Castlemartyr.—I most humbly thank your Excellency for the honour of your letter of the 21st instant and for what your Grace has been pleased to impart unto me in it. I am very sorry the rebellion in Scotland is such that the Council there hath humbly craved His Majesty's aid both out of England and Ireland. I more than hope that since in the return your Excellency has made to the Order of the Council of the 10th instant you have not undertaken for the safety of this kingdom, tho' none of the forces of it should be drawn out of it, much less should a part of it be commanded out of it, that His Majesty will be pleased to leave your Grace the army you have entire. For if the rebellion be so great that neither the loyal party in that kingdom nor the forces ordered to help them under the Duke of Monmouth be not able to suppress it, 'tis to be doubted that the small party sent from hence will not be of so much benefit there as their absence will be of prejudice here, since 'tis but too probable if the rebellion there be prosperous it may have too much influence on the Scots of Ulster, who may be also the more incited to assist their associates if they see the forces which should awe them be sent into Scotland. And who knows if the discontented Scots in Ulster should rise, but the discontented Irish may do the like, and both do it with the less apprehension by the absence of a large part of this little army.

But should a body of men be sent out of it into Scotland, doubtless your Excellency's desire of recruiting this army

proportionately to the numbers sent out, it is in my poor opinion the best thing you could propose, tho' I am not without apprehensions that it will be difficult to get as many and as good men and horse in Ireland to fill up the vacancies as those are whose absence will make it. I most humbly thank your Grace for commanding Sir R. Aldworth's company to Limerick, and that your Excellency will send one other company at least to supply such as shall now be commanded out of that garrison, which I wish more expeditiously cleared of those who Sir William King and Sir George Ingoldsby have returned in a list may be well spared out of it. For since they expect to be removed I humbly think it may not be advisable (in such a conjuncture) to let them stay to hatch mischief. The securing of the principal towns is questionless very advisable, and since by doing thereof, as your Excellency writes, the country will be left to the guard of the militia, I most humbly offer it to your Grace's consideration that the care of regulating and of often training the militia in every county may be seriously recommended to some fit person or persons in every county who may be strictly required to see it effectually done, or be answerable if it be not done; and I presume to say the doing hereof is very needful.

EARL OF OSSORY TO ORMOND.

1679, June 24th.—As yet I have not shewed the King either of your letters of the 3rd or the 13th of this month, expecting an issue of the affairs of Scotland, of which we do believe by the Duke of Monmouth's letter to hear very soon that there is an end of them. By yours of the 17th, which I received yesterday, I find you have given that answer to the demand of the Council concerning what forces you could spare which reasonably was to be expected. If I give you not quick accounts of my acting anything upon your letters, I beseech you to believe it proceeds not from slothfulness, but that as I am forced often many days to wait for favourable opportunities of discoursing with His Majesty, so upon other grounds I do defer it even when those do fall out, which are seldom enough. What has passed in the Council I suppose you will hear from more authentic hands. Last night the King commanded the Lords Chamberlain, Essex, Sunderland, Clarendon, Halifax to discourse about the Queen's affairs, and I happening to be in the King's bedchamber he called all the Lords of the Council into the inner room, and my Lord Clarendon was spoken unto to come up a private pair of stairs. I could not refrain from expressing to my Lord Chamberlain a resentment of my being excluded in this matter, averring with great truth that I looked upon it as an effect of the King's complaisance not to mingle me with company unto which I was not acceptable, and to be no mark of ill-will. My Lord Chamberlain said he heard the King send for me,

but I had no notice thereof ; upon his lordship's telling him this I suppose it drew this morning the King's excuse, laying the blame upon the forgetfulness of Chivins [Chiffinch] together with his being so taken up with his thoughts of the Queen as he minded nothing else. Since my writing this I shewed the King your letters and have got leave to deal with the Marquis of Winchester and shall drive that affair with all possible speed, and as much to your advantage as I can. As to the penny in the pound out of the pay of the soldiers of the Scotch Regiment, His Majesty thinks it no way advisable, so you will hear no more of this. He commanded me to tell you that he intended not to have this Parliament sit until October, unless some unexpected accident intervene, but will have this kept secret. I then offered to his thoughts calling one in Ireland, which, he says, he will within a few days consider of. If within two hours we learn anything I shall not fail imparting it to you. I hope you will pardon this odd way of writing by snatches. I am desired by my Lord Castlehaven to recommend his concern to you. He has the King's letter, and His Majesty commanded me to mind you particularly of him. This lord is very kind to you and your family.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 25th, Whitehall.—His Majesty hath at this instant commanded me to send this express to you to bring you the news of the happy success of his Grace the Duke of Monmouth against the rebels ; this enclosed paper will shew you the particulars of the action. This will answer many doubts and questions in your former letters as to shipping, provisions, etc. I suppose what will be chiefly incumbent upon your Grace will be to observe who of those that have been in the rebellion of Scotland or of their conspirators retire into the north of Ireland, and if any of eminency be amongst them to secure their persons till His Majesty shall send further orders. It is now very late, I will not deprive your Grace a moment in receiving this happy news, which I hope will have influence beyond Scotland.

EARL OF ORREERY to ORMOND.

1679, June 27, Castlemartyr.—When I received yesterday the great honour of your Excellency's letter, Lt.-Colonel Monro was with me, to whom I read that part of your Excellency's letter which concerned Captain Douglas, and I desired him to signify your Excellency's pleasure thereon unto that Captain, that he might pay his obedience to it.

I presume to acquaint your Grace that the new regiment is in want, having received but one month's pay since they landed. I have been necessitated to lend some of the companies money out of my own purse, and to borrow money for them till their own comes. I have lent the commanded

party out of my own troop and company one month's pay for officers and soldiers. For the 25th of March pay having been received before your Excellency's orders came, the money was paid to the soldiers, and they had paid it to discharge their debts, for now three months' pay more is due unto them. God knows, as your Grace writes, the army in this kingdom is too little and too ill-provided of all things to awe those we have reason to apprehend in this kingdom, and, therefore, I do not only hope but have also written to some friends of the Council that if possibly it can be avoided, no part of it may be commanded out of it, and I have given reasons why, in my poor opinion, I made to them that desire. My interest is very inconsiderable towards preserving the peace of this kingdom (which I am very sensible is of importance as to His Majesty's other dominions in all conjunctures of time and especially in the present), but all my endeavours shall never be wanting towards that duty, as your Excellency shall judge fit to command them.

I heartily wish we may not be found too sanguine in our hopes that this Scotch rebellion will be suddenly suppressed, for I much fear this fanatic people that have risen may be backed by persons of greater weight, if they find these first risers need help. The Covenant, I doubt, is deeply rooted in too many there, and I find even in the wild Declaration published the Covenant is mentioned. God grant I be mistaken in my apprehensions, but still 'tis best to provide against the worst. I unfeignedly lament the difficulties your Excellency struggles with. I would I were able to contribute anything which might be of ease to you. . . .

I most humbly thank your Grace for your so favourably accepting the conclusion of my last letter. All the actions of my life shall evidence the unalterable duty I owe my King and my perfect obedience to his service in all commands your Grace shall honour me with.

Postscript.—We had the other day an ugly mutiny at Cork by Captain John St. Leger's company who cried one and all, but the corporal who began it and one of the ringleaders have been both punished and cashiered.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, June 28, Whitehall.—Since the last to you by the express I have little more to add, only there is a confirmation come from the Duke of Monmouth of the defeat, seven or eight hundred killed upon the place, and about twelve hundred prisoners brought into Edinburgh.

My Lord Castlehaven hath made a complaint to His Majesty, that the interest money for his 5,000*l.* hath been unpaid for above a year and a half; His Majesty commanded to write to your Grace that he desireth justice may be done to the Earl in that particular. Mr. Fanshaw likewise that married the widow of Mr. Sarsfield complaineth that Sir

Theophilus Jones by a contract with His Majesty agreed to deliver up the estate to such and such trustees for the use of young Sarsfield, the minor; that he hath been by virtue of the King's patent reprised, and yet retaineth both the reprisal and the minor's estate. His Majesty desireth your Grace will inquire into the true state of this affair, and if the complaint be found reasonable to see justice done. His Majesty goeth on Monday to Windsor. I shall remain here or hereabouts, and the Council sitteth two days a week here and once at Hampton Court. Your commands will find me by your usual address hither, and I shall obey them with the same readiness I have always done.

ORMOND to EARL OF ORRERY.

1679, June 28, Dublin.—The reflections in your lordship's of the 24th and the advices are most solid and pertinent, and will continue to be useful tho' it should prove true that the rebels in Scotland are dissipated and subdued as a very probable report confirmed by concurring circumstances makes me believe they are. The report is that upon Friday last the King's forces, headed by the Duke of Monmouth, engaged the rebels, that the contest lasted Friday and Saturday, and that then the rebels were routed. The circumstances by which I am induced to believe the main of the report are that the Duke of Monmouth was the Tuesday night before arrived in Scotland, that the next morning by nine o'clock he went to the forces raised for the King twenty miles distant from Edinburgh, that the King's forces were superior in number to the rebels, and, which goes farthest with me, some persons fled out of Scotland with good horses and arms were apprehended in the north as they landed, two of whom have made their escape; which, though it be an ill argument of the care of the officers, is a good one of their guilt, and of the ill condition of their brethren in Scotland. I am of opinion what is said in the letter (whereof I send your lordship a copy) of three days' engagement was indeed three days' retreat, and, being overtaken the third day. I have upon this occasion divers letters and orders to send to the north, and must here end.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, June 28.—I am not wanting in point of diligence concerning the affair of the bargain, but the person being out of town I cannot conclude it until his arrival, which I am told will be within two or three days. It is resolved but not declared that a stop shall be put upon the board wages of the great officers and all others to that degree as the household is not to cost more than thirty thousand pounds a year. I do much apprehend that this may disturb the bargain now in agitation. The loss I receive is more than anybody's of the Court, having considerable salaries

in the King's and Queen's service. I have often put His Majesty in mind of a Parliament in Ireland; even this day he promised to consider of the thing, and of what preparation ought be made thereunto. Within a few days I will resolve upon some course as to myself with relation to the present disappointment, until which time I shall defer giving my mother the trouble of writing to her.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ESSEX.

1679, July 1, Dublin.—As soon as the payments due to Bridges were over, I bethought myself of what your lordship at our parting was pleased to recommend to my care for the satisfaction of those of the army who had not been paid equal with the rest the quarter ending at Christmas, '75, and of those who had given clothes to the soldiers. And tho' I could not nor yet can find His Majesty's letter requiring it, yet I thought the thing so reasonable that I was preparing for it when another charge came upon this Revenue by His Majesty's sending over the Scotch Regiment and commanding that the pay of it should be added to the establishment, which comes to near 20,000*l.* a year. Having now received His Majesty's renewed and express commands for it I shall put it in execution as soon as the account of what is due shall be stated; for which order is given to the Deputy Vice-Treasurer, not doubting but that your lordship, who is so well acquainted with the state of the Revenue and charge of this kingdom by experience and by the late representations which lie before you, will judge how insufficient the one is to support the other, and to make those provisions that even in times of highest peace and greatest security are absolutely necessary, of which it were in vain to give your lordship a particular enumeration, since you cannot forget in what condition the want of money forced you to leave the magazines, forts and stores of this kingdom, that is how utterly defective in most things and how slenderly provided in anything. When your lordship and the rest of my Lords of the Treasury shall have time to look upon what lies before you in relation to the state of the charge of the Revenue here with the attention requisite, and compare it with the posture of affairs at home and abroad, I do not question but you will so represent the danger of this kingdom to itself, and in consequence to the rest of his dominions to His Majesty, that now whilst by the success of his arms in Scotland God gives time and opportunity for it, some care will be taken so to provide against an insurrection or invasion as to discourage or resist them. And since it appears to me by the retrenchments which I hear are designed in England, that from thence His Majesty's service here cannot be succoured with money or anything that will cost money, I know no way how it can be supplied but by calling a Parliament in this kingdom, which I have taken

the liberty to advise and press for ever since I came last into this kingdom, and in order to which Bills have lain long on that side. I confess the transactions there have been so many and so important that I do not wonder those Bills have not hitherto been considered, tho' there have been some intervals that to me at this distance seemed long enough for the work. I confess also that since the sending over of those Bills some things have fallen out, which if they could have been foreseen it is possible the Bills had not in all parts been sent as they were, particularly that for confirming of estates, against which many objections were raised at first transmission of it, and some answers made to those objections, which lie in the hands of my Lord Chancellor, Mr. Secretary Coventry, Mr. Attorney or some of them. But since His Majesty had no design by that Bill but the security and satisfaction of his subjects, I should think it may either be mended there according to the sense of His Majesty and his Privy Council, and fitted to the present conjuncture and so returned; or it may be wholly laid aside, and it may be left to the Council here to prepare another Bill after the Parliament shall be met, agreeable to their desire for whose only sake it was ever thought of. I ask your lordship's pardon for the length of this letter, and your leave to put you in mind that several drafts of letters humbly proposed by me have lain long before your lordship, and the rest of the Lords of the Treasury, which tend in my judgment to the King's service and to the just discharge of your lordship's most faithful humble servant.

Postscript.—If there be any objections to the letters I humbly desire to know them, that I may acquiesce or endeavour to give your lordship satisfaction.

EARL OF ORREERY to ORMOND.

1679, July 1, Castlemartyr.—I have received the great honour of your Grace's letter of the 28th of June, and am very glad to find in it that those poor thoughts of mine which I laid at your Excellency's feet were not unacceptable to you. I am not a little pleased at what your Grace vouchsafed to write to me of the defeat given by the blessing of God to the rebellious Scotch by the forces under the Duke of Monmouth. I hope the next packet will bring us a confirmation, and all the particulars. God grant it may suppress the disorders of that kingdom. Your Grace is doubtless in the right that a fight which lasted three days could be nothing else but a retreating fight, unless the rebels, finding themselves overpowered, did post themselves advantageously, and I think the lands about Glasgow are so well enclosed that the place by nature was advantageous for such a manner of defence. I humbly offer it to your Grace's consideration, if this news be confirmed of the defeat being total, whether the commanded horse and foot out of every troop

and company in Ulster may not be better employed to be along the coast there than if they were rendezvoused at the Naas. For if the fugitives come over for shelter into Ulster they will this fair season never land but in by-places, for they will easily conclude the usual ports for landing will be guarded; and I doubt if those commanded men be drawn from that country, nay if not employed with others also for that service, divers may not only escape being taken, but also may endeavour to kindle a flame in the north of Ireland; tho' possibly the terror of the late victory may retain many in their duty.

[The remainder of this letter relates to the cost of military tents.]

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, July 5.—I have writ to my mother concerning the late retrenchments. All I shall trouble you with upon that subject is to let you know that I have three very fine horses of the best breeds of Spain. If you please to make use of them, I shall send them unto you, presuming that you will furnish me with them or others to that proportion in case I should be again engaged in war, which I hope will not be my fate. If this proposition be not acceptable I desire soon to know your pleasure, that I may as soon as I can rid myself of the expense of them. Upon the notification of the marriage of the King of Spain and Mademoiselle, I engaged the King to let me be the bearer of his compliments if I could be spared from hence upon the score of his or the Queen's service or your concerns, unto which he easily consented. Having left myself a latitude of retreat, I give you the reasons that induced me: first, I believe the function is honourable enough, and, besides satisfying my curiosity, I may expect upon your account, who have ever been valued particularly by that Crown, and next upon my having served in their cause, to be at least as well received as any that could be sent from hence. The expense of the journey I doubt not but the King will furnish me wherewithal to bear, and if about October things absolutely necessary does not require my being here, I should not be sorry to have a just cause of absence. In this and all things I shall be determined by your pleasure, if you consent, and that this thing proceeds, which is yet secret, and I desire it may so continue. I shall then desire your letter to Don Juan and shall inform you of the style of writing to him. I am told of a grant to Percy Kirk, in which I am desired to mediate your favour therein. I spoke to the King about calling a Parliament in Ireland, and to-morrow at a meeting of a Committee of the Council, His Majesty said he would take that into consideration.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, July 5, Whitehall.—I have received your Grace's of 21, 22 of June, together with all the papers sent with them.

As to all things relating to the Scotch rebellion, His Majesty conceiveth himself sufficiently armed in Scotland without giving further trouble to his other dominions, unless it should break out anew, which I hope it will not suddenly do, though I doubt the discontents are not laid asleep, though some of the men are. As for the arms seized on at Belfast and distributed amongst the fanatics, it hath an ill aspect; but I should think the way good your Grace in one of your former letters intimated you had taken, viz., to order that whatsoever arms were brought in should be put into magazines and the names of those that bought them certified; in which case there ought to be a preference to the militia, and especially in those parts where there is so much cause to suspect some secret understanding with their brethren the Scots. I have moved in Council that my Lord Ranelagh's accounts may be sent back to your Grace, which I suppose will be accordingly done. I do not find any preparations in my Lord Ranelagh or his partners for that journey. They are at great differences with themselves, but his lordship is not without his friends in Court, though they do not much appear. His Majesty is now at Windsor, and the Council meeteth him but once a week. How criminal the words of Mr. Osborne are in law I know not, but certainly they are the indication of a very bad man, and as far as by law you may I suppose your Grace will resent it on him. The Duke of Monmouth is expected within a few days, and the Duchess of Cleveland. A suspension of all tables, pensions and what not?; if we can but keep the army and fleet as cheap as the household a little revenue will serve.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1679, July 6—Your Vice-Chancellor, the Warden of New College, being now upon the death of the Warden of Winchester likely to be removed thither, and consequently obliged to quit his interest in this place, there will be occasion for your Excellency to think upon the nomination of a new Vice-Chancellor sooner than is used to be done. The Warden of Winchester died on Tuesday last, and I think there is twenty days respite by statute required before a successor is chosen, and afterward a month is allowed before the Wardenship of the College here becomes void. I take this first opportunity of signifying to your Excellency what has happened, it being of great importance that he who has the honour to represent your Excellency may be qualified to support that dignity, and that the University may have the benefit of a diligent and able Vice-Chancellor. Your Excellency will have the less difficulty in your designation, there being very few heads of houses who are capable of the charge, many having been Vice-Chancellors already, others are disabled by sickness or age, or the faculty which they profess. I was bold formerly to intimate that the most probable person

was, in my apprehension, Dr. Timothy Halton, Provost of Queen's College, or Dr. Thomas Marshall, Rector of Lincoln College; tho' neither of these have fortunes which will enable them to bear the office with its usual splendour.

As to your Excellency's more immediate concern, I can assure you that my Lord James, by God's blessing, has perfect health, and I hope has received since he came hither visible improvements both of body of mind. He has the company of many very ingenious young noblemen who make it their business to pay him all respect and render his being here neither uneasy nor unuseful to him. It will be matter of great joy to me if I can contribute anything to my lord's future advantage and your Excellency's and her Grace's present content and security. Nothing shall be omitted within the power of your Graces, etc.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, July 8.—You are not to wonder at the uncertainty of persons' resolutions, especially if they have any dependence on those relating to the public. I thought the bargain sure with my Lord Marquis of Winchester, but this evening he has absolutely declined it, alleging the present suspension, but acknowledging with large expressions your favour, which he desired me to express from him. I have reason to believe that his friend my Lord President and he are not satisfied nor pleased with the growing interest of my Lords of Essex and Halifax. The latter is more assiduous than ever my Lord Lauderdale was. His aim, I am credibly told, is at the government of Ireland. I intend to shew the King your letter which I received of the first of this month, being advised thereunto. To that part relating to my son he will easily leave off when I point to him what it concerns. I am not satisfied with what I hear from him; in a short time, when I have seen him, I will give you an account and my opinion what to do with him. I am now busy about retrenching my family.

EARL OF ANGLESEY to ORMOND.

1679, July 12, London.—I received your last letter with the enclosed certificate of Dr. Meara, which came seasonably to help me in obtaining His Majesty and Council's order for Col. Talbot's liberty and their licence for his going into France for cure, both which your Grace will receive by this post.

On Thursday last at Hampton Court in Council His Majesty declared his pleasure to dissolve this Parliament. Some of us were sent for to Windsor last Lord's day, where, though we had large debate and discourse with His Majesty, nothing could divert this resolution. God send good success herein and guide the people to make a wise and moderate choice, or else I doubt we are out of the frying pan into the fire by

a new Parliament, which is to meet on Tuesday, the 7th of October next. We want your Grace's wisdom and experience at such a time.

The Duke of Monmouth returned two days since and left all quiet in Scotland by giving liberty for house conventicles. I wish this year may not prove fatal to this the best church in the world. I shall not trouble your Grace about the lapse money till I send the resolution of His Majesty and Council therein, but shall be ready to execute any your Grace's commands.

EARL OF OSSORY TO ORMOND.

1679, July 12, Whitehall.—I received yours of the 6th of this month, which found me here, altogether intent upon reducing my family according to my income and pursuant to the advice you gave me. I do also intend to see my son very soon. My Lord Chamberlain thinks he has been long enough at Oxford and advises my bringing him to Windsor until further resolutions. Since you leave him to our care we will take the most justifiable course with him, and I hope to your content. Mr. Godolphin tells me of a person that has a mind to deal for your staff, but cannot name him till he has again spoken unto him. I will serve you the best I can, but shall not conclude without your approbation. I have not anything to trouble my mother withal.

HENRY THYNNE TO ORMOND.

1679, July 12, Whitehall.—Mr. Secretary being at his lodge I presume (by his command) to acquaint your Grace of the receipt of yours of the 6th instant, together with the report concerning the rubbish pretended to be thrown into the port of Kinsale, both which have been showed to His Majesty, and the latter will be communicated to the Council at the next meeting.

I have by this post sent your Grace the copy of Lord Ranelagh's accounts, of which Mr. Secretary gave your Grace advice by his last letter. I doubt not but your Grace will from all hands have the news of the dissolution of this Parliament, and another to be called to sit on the 7th of October next. This was declared in Council on Thursday last to be His Majesty's pleasure, but there is yet no proclamation issued out either for dissolving the one or calling the other, but I believe the proclamation will be signed next Council day.

On Thursday the Duke of Monmouth returned hither from Scotland, where he left much joy amongst the conventiclors, who have indulgence and liberty for house meetings, but not for those in the field. I wish the next Parliament be as good as this we part with, but as yet I have not seen that we have gained much by these bargains.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, July 12.—You will find [] last post that I am of opinion of the necessity of your good husbandry, and will contribute towards it as far as I can; if you cannot sell your Spanish horses to reasonable advantage you may send them hither, where they shall be kept for you and exercised as they ought to be. For myself I am past riding any upon any occasion but such as are easy and quiet. If you can be sure you shall spend no more than will be allowed you upon the expedition you project, I have nothing to object against it, but I do not see any possibility but that you must spend more, or appear there in an equipage unequal to the employment and to the reputation of our fortune and quality; for it is not to be expected but that (if such a ceremony cannot be accepted), yet it will be performed with all the frugality imaginable agreeable to the thrift now in practice; and so the allowance will be narrow, and you must run in debt or appear very unfit for so splendid a congress as that is like to be, so that you do well to keep yourself unengaged till you know that the character you shall bear will be equal to your quality and station and your allowance to them, but still remember that when you shall be once named for it, you will find it difficult handsomely to knock off for want of sufficient appointments or a character []. The one will certainly expose you to censure as not setting a right and necessary value on yourself, and the other to one of the inconveniences I mentioned of being a dishonour to yourself and your character or undone by supporting it at your own charge. This is all I can say to that matter, no better instructed than I am. For as to the duty you owe to the King and Queen, to the Royal Family and your own, I suppose you will prefer them to any interest (if you could have any separate from them) and much more to any curiosity of your own, and how you can foresee that none of those can have use of you I know not; so unsettled and so much more than ordinarily subject to mutations of the highest nature the times are. If you consult my Lord Chamberlain in this affair, as doubtless you do, unless you are unwilling to hear reason which may contradict your inclination, I desire you to shew him this letter.

R. SPENCER to EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, July 13.—I conclude, my Lord, you hear before this that the last worthy Parliament is dissolved, and I hear men of honest principles will endeavour to be of the next, which makes me give you this trouble (which I ask you pardon for) to desire you to get a letter of my Lord Duke, your father, to the University of Oxford to recommend me to be one of their burgesses. If you can do me this favour, pray be pleased to give the letter to my sister Drogheda, and

she will convey it safely to me. I would have given myself the honour to have writ to my Lord Duke, but that I believed it would be more effectual to have your lordship recommend me and put my lord in mind of it, for if he pleases to do me this honour, the sooner I have it the better. I ask your pardon, my lord, for this trouble.

Postscript.—My lord and you know I am one of their body, being a Doctor and Canon of Christchurch.

ORMOND to EARL OF BURLINGTON.

1679, July 15th, Dublin—All I can tell your lordship of this kingdom is that since the defeat of the rebels in Scotland there seems to be a great calm. I confess before that I was not without some apprehensions of the common sort of the Scots in the north, being well assured that their false teachers held correspondence with their brethren in Scotland. The English (some few giddy and poor fanatics excepted) have no inclination to disturb the Government, tho' they do not in all things acquiesce or observe the constitutions of it, and I have not any fear of the Irish, beyond torying, but in case of a civil war amongst those that go under the name of Protestants or in case of an invasion. Your lordship has concern enough here to dispose you to pardon my giving you this general account of the place*.

SIR ROBERT HOWARD to ORMOND.

1679, July 15, Exchequer.—I have sent you a letter from the King upon notice given that the Attorney-General did expect the order from your Grace for the prosecution of his title in the towns of Carlingford and Dundalk with what belongs to them, His Majesty being informed that he has been deceived in his grant, and that the title remains in him, in order to which he has been pleased to command me to send the Attorney-General instructions for the prosecution of it, which I have done, and humbly desire your Grace to give your commands accordingly to the Attorney-General for the prosecution of it.

Mrs. Nelly has commanded me to let you know that her agent, Mr. Melish, has not yet completed her pension for Michaelmas half-year, and also sends her word that he has no hopes when to receive the Lady half-year last past, for that there is a stop upon it. She begs your Grace's favour in this, and that you would please to command any of your servants to let me know what the condition of it is, and what she may expect, presuming she shall find your kindness enough to assist her in this particular, and has commanded me to assure your Grace that nothing would please her better than to have a share in serving your Grace.

The business now begins to be about elections, which I fear will not answer much to the counsel of dissolving the Parliament; nor can I any way perceive why expectations

* The concluding sentences of this letter are illegible.

should be extraordinary for any change of proceedings, for the persons will be most the same, and whether the apprehensions of frequent dissolutions may breed compliance sooner than displeasure, I dare not determine ; but I fear the last, and the effect of that may be a demand of a prefixed time of sitting, which is the greatest shake to the prerogative, and was the fatal acquisition of that Parliament that built a civil war upon the Triennial Bill. But I will hope the best, and since there is no salvation but by the love of the King and his happiness, 'tis reasonable to believe that argument joined to that fatal memory will quiet all loyal minds from letting their resentments overrule their reason and experience. Here is nothing else worthy of your Grace's knowledge at present, when there is I will not omit my duty in giving you the best account that occurs to me.

REV. PETER DRELCINCOURT to ORMOND.

1679, July 17, Oxford.—Il y a trois jours que je receus l'ordre qu'il a plu à votre grandeur de me faire signifier par M^r le Docteur Morton. J'espère s'il plaist à Dieu d'y obeir ponctuellement, rendant conte chaque semaine à votre grandeur de l'état de Monseign^r votre digne petit fils, et je le feray comme je fais a present selon ma conscience & avec toute la verité et la sincerité imaginable.

Sa santé Monseigneur est graces à Dieu touiours bonne, il est touiours gay & vigoureux & son embonpoint touiours le même. Il est creu visiblement depuis six mois et a beaucoup plus l'air d'homme qu'il n'avoit.

Pour ses etudes son tuteur en a icy la principale direction (suivant la coutume de l'université). M^r nôtre bon Evêque, qui continue d'être touiours tres bon et tres obligant à my lord vient souvent le matin nous surprendre, voir ce que fait my lord & lire qu'elques moments avec luy. Le dit tuteur luy a doné durant qu'elques mois des *Epigrammes* de Martial à apprendre, et comme c'étoit mon devoir je les luy expliquois, les luy faisois traduire & apprendre par coeur ensuite Monseigneur il luy a donné des vers de Virgile. La matinée est employée au Latin apres les prieres particulieres et la lecture dans la Bible. L'apres dinée le tuteur luy vient montrer l'arithmetique, et je luy fais ensuite des leçons d'histoire meslée de geographie.

Mais, comme ma conscience, & mon zèle pour le bien de mon cher Seigneur ne me permettent pas de rien déguiser dans une chose de si grande importance je supplie tres humblement votre grandeur de ne pas trouver mauvais si je luy dis franchement que l'avancement de my lord ne répond pas à mon avis aus grandes esperances et à la bonne opinion que l'on peut avoir de ce lieu si fameux. Je le dis monseigneur avec un esprit désinteressé. J'estime et j'honore extremement cette belle université ou pour mon avancement particulier j'ay passé plus d'une fois un tems assez considerable ;

mais il semble que bien des gents ayant dessein icy de rendre la condition des jeunes gents de qualité aisée et agreable. Messieurs les Tuteurs ont leur maniere d'enseigner qu'ils ne veulent point changer, ils font ce qu'ils veulent, et quand ils veulent rien d'avantage. Le tuteur de my lord qui pour le dire franchement suit ce chemin aussy bien, ou mieux que les autres (soit par inclination, ou que ses cinq ou six autres pupilles, ses affaires particulieres, ou ses divertissements l'occupent fort) vient qu'elque fois enseigner my lord une demy heure, ou un quart d'heure le matin, autant apres midy, souvent il n'est pas venu quatre fois la semaine & il y a plus de trois semaines que nous n'avons eu la joye de le voir dans le cabinet de my lord. C'est icy un tres grand crime que de trouver a redire à ces manieres. Mr Gandy le vois aussy bien que moi, et c'en est un bien plus grand de l'écrire a vôtre grandeur, et qui s'il étoit sçeu par aucun de cette université ne me seroit jamais pardonné. Ce n'est pas Monseigneur que je craigne personne de pouvoir retorquer contre moy, et de dire avec apparence de verité que je m'attache à autre chose qu' au bien, à l'avancement et à la conservation de mon cher seigneur et que je n' en fasse pas ma grande et mon unique affaire : et que je n'y employe pas tout mon tems. C'est monseigneur ce que je supplie tres humblement vôtre grandeur de croire que je fais avec tout le zèle et l'affection imaginable.*

HENRY THYNNE TO ORMOND.

1679, July 19.—This moment is arrived your Grace's letter of the 12th, together with the two others from yourself and Council concerning Lord Ranelagh and partners. Mr. Secretary is at his lodge, where he spends four or five days a week during His Majesty's being at Windsor, but these letters shall be immediately sent to him, and I am confident will by him be represented to His Majesty and Council the next Council day, which will be Thursday next. The great news we have here (besides that of Lord Halifax, Lord Gerard and Lord Roberts being made Earls, which I doubt not but your Grace has been already acquainted with) is the trial of Sir George Wakeman and three others concerned (or at least accused of being so) in the Plot; they were yesterday at the Old Bayly all acquitted, which has very much surprised many people here, supposing it may have some influence upon those great ones that are yet untried. We are likewise very busy in all parts in order to new elections of Members of Parliament, and by what can yet be guessed at, most of the same faces will appear there again, which, if they do, I believe they will not be in much better humour for having spent a great deal of money for the same place they had most of them paid dear for before.

* The orthography and the original has been followed in this transcript.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, July 19, Whitehall.—This night my son came hither, having sent for him to satisfy my curiosity. He is grown fat, but not to the degree I did expect. I am just now returned from Windsor, and having had no discourse with him or his governor I cannot now give you any further relation of him. I came hither upon the account of Sir John [George] Wakeman's trial, to see if I might anyways serve the Queen; the success you will have from the public news. It has very much rejoiced the Queen, since it is believed that she will have no other trouble than that of having been named for a fact, which even her enemies, I believe, in their hearts do not think her capable of. The King did express much kindness to her, and with tears of joy did express the satisfaction he had for the acquittal of this man, which he presumes will hinder the malicious attempts of ill men against her. However, he has promised to be steadfast in his justice and kindness to her. I sent an express immediately to her with an account of that transaction. She is pleased to be contented with my good will, which was all that lay in me towards her service.

My Lord Chamberlain's hand permits him not to write. He has enjoined me, upon my telling him that I was privately looking after a habitation for you in case of your removal, to offer you Euston, which you know is well furnished. You will also have his hounds and hawks, and be far from giving him any trouble in accepting this proposition. I can assure you he says this heartily, and not by way of compliment. You will be pleased to acknowledge to him this civility. If this suits not with your inclinations, Sir Stephen Fox tells me he believes my Lord of Clarendon may be contented to let Cornbury, which they say is a very fine place; all this is supposing a change, which, though reported, yet I cannot find any ground for it. My Lord Chamberlain desires you to think of the hawks you promised him, and to have them sent with all speed, the season drawing near for those sports. I beseech you to pay Savignon according to the King's pleasure, which, at my request when I waited on you at Dublin, you were pleased to promise him your favour herein.

EXAMINATIONS OF ROBERT SANDERS, H. GETHINGS AND
JOHN HORDEN RELATIVE TO AN ATTEMPT TO
ASSASSINATE THE KING.

Robt. Sanders, Master of the ship *Virgin*, from Barnestable, being sworn and examined, and Henry Gethings, pilot of the same ship, being also sworn and examined, say and the said Henry Gethings for himself saith, That he heard it publicly spoken at a christening in Barnestable that Mr. Edward Carpenter and Mr. Harvey, men of note in that country, wrote several letters to their friends from London, dated about the 9th or 10th instant, making report that

soon after the dissolution of the Parliament a person presenting a petition to His Majesty with a hat in one hand and a stick under the other arm, so soon as the petition delivered, let fall the stick with a skane or tack therein with some kind of spring thereto, which the person most dexterously recovered and made a pass at His Majesty's breast, but did not pierce him by reason his coat of mail or other defence under his coat made resistance, upon which the party was apprehended, and confessed he was to have three thousand pounds if he had killed His Majesty. The said Gethings further saith that he being a burgess or freeman of the said town of Barnestable had several debates about election of the same persons, Sir Hugh Ackland and Colonel Basset, Members in Parliament (the present being dissolved). A new Parliament are to meet about the 5th or 10th of October next, and further saith not

[SIGNED.]

HENRY GETHINGS.

And the said Robert Sanders, being master and part owner of the said vessel, saith that he set sail from Barnestable on the 18th instant, and that he heard several people say that the King was attempted to be stabbed, but prevented only by what he wore, and further saith not

[SIGNED.]

ROBERT SANDERS.

John Horden, master of the *Unicorn* from Barnestable, set sail from thence on the 19th instant, being examined, saith, That the aforementioned report was not confirmed to his friend the last packet relating to His Majesty, but the other part as to the dissolution of the Parliament and meeting of a new about the 7th October was confirmed by several letters.

Examinations taken before me, Edward FitzGerald als Villiers, Esquire, on the 21st July, 1679.

JOHN HORDEN.

Endorsed. "Received from E. of Orrery, 25 July, '79."

EARL OF LONGFORD TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, July 22, London.—It is a good while since I saw Mrs. Ferrers, and therefore I can give your lordship no account of her resolution concerning your children, which I heartily wish were safe with you. If your lordship had sent me a copy of the representation from the Board concerning my Lord Ran., undertakings, also a copy of the report from the Commissioners of his accounts, I could have made very good use of them by my application to my Lord Halifax and Lord Falmouth and others before that matter could be brought before the Council, whereas now it will two days hence be read in Council, and I cannot prepare them beforehand, because I cannot divine what those papers contain, no more than I can the purport of that letter written to Mr. Secretary, with whom I have now but seldom conversation by reason of his being out of town. And now my Lord Ranelagh's affair is at a crisis, methinks

'tis pity you should thus do business by halves, for though it is a matter of great importance to my Lord Lieutenant to crush now so dangerous and dexterous an enemy, for which he will never have the like opportunity, I do not find that vigour in the prosecution that is necessary to the accomplishing of it, which is some discouragement to those servants of his Grace's here who out of no other consideration than their zeal to his service have so heartily embarked in it. For, notwithstanding those material hints I have given both his Grace and yourself upon this subject, neither of you so much as take notice of them, which does not only leave me in the dark, but out of countenance too, when I am asked questions by those necessary instruments I make use of to gain our point. I understand Col. Bramston's company is removed from Longford, of which I am very sorry for several reasons. And, therefore, if your lordship could prevail with my Lord Lieutenant for their marching back again thither I shall own it as a particular favour.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, July 22.—I received yesterday three letters of the 17th of this month. Two of them spoke of one Mr. Stephens, who I have not yet seen, but shall be civil unto him as occasion shall offer, and the more willingly since he is recommended to my Lord Primate. The discourse continues of either the Lord of Essex or Lord Halifax to be sent into Ireland, upon which accounts my Lord Chamberlain did intend even before he saw your letters this day to discourse with His Majesty to find out his resolutions, believing that if nothing of that kind be intended that it is for His Majesty's service that those reports be quashed. He will also represent how much it may import the calling a Parliament in Ireland, and the injustice you suffer by my Lord of Essex's not having your accounts examined, but, as is said, on the contrary defers that and insinuates things tending to his being dissatisfied with expenses lately made. Of this last particular when I have an opportunity I shall speak of it unto His Majesty. By the next post I shall give you my Lord Chamberlain's and my opinion what is fit to be done with James. I received this morning a letter from Monsieur St. Helène, which shall be transmitted unto you ; as to himself nothing can be said until we see what is to be done with James. For his son, who they say is a very good officer, I wish with all my heart he were a lieutenant or cornet of horse ; if things continue in the present state I wish you would let him serve you as a gentleman until such provision can be made ; he is a blunt but a very stout and a careful officer.

ORMOND to JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford.

1679, July 23, Dublin.—If Parliaments continue to be so short-lived and I to be Chancellor of Oxford, the University

is like to have frequent recommendations from me. That which I have now given Mr. Lane, the bearer, is with much assurance that he will discharge the trust with zeal for the Church and the University. I wish the House of Commons may consist of none worse affected than he, and then we may hope for that temper we stand so much in need of. If I did not think thus of him I should not desire your lordship's furtherance to his pretensions as now I do.

**PETITION OF INHABITANTS OF YOUGHAL TO ORMOND
RELATIVE TO LICENSES TO TRADE IN WOOL.**

TO HIS GRACE JAMES, DUKE OF ORMOND, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, and the Lords of His Majesty's most Honble. Privy Council.

The humble petition of several the inhabitants, merchants, and traders in the Port of Youghal, in the County of Cork. Humbly sheweth

That in obedience to a late order from your Grace bearing date the tenth day of May last, forbidding the entering and shipping of wool, woollen yarn, &c., without due licence first had and obtained in the true proprietor's names for greater or lesser quantities, your petitioners have withheld their accustomed practice of buying small quantities of wool as heretofore from poor tenants, by reason your petitioners in former times had licences granted to them as known merchants and their assigns, for which they became security for one thousand five hundred stone in each licence, paying the Lord Lieutenant's dues four pence for each stone and one pound five shillings to the Secretary, as will appear by a copy of licences [of] old date, now presented to the view of your Grace and most Honble. Privy Council. That your petitioners are owners and part owners of a considerable number of ships and vessels that frequently from this port attend the carrying of small and great cattle as well as other goods for England, where it often happens that petty merchants do take freight for four or five bags of wool where cattle and sheep cannot be stowed, which for time out of mind they have had the benefit of, endorsing small quantities of wool on such licence as is usually taken out in some of our names, or in the name of the Clerk of the Custom House, for which we or some of us, as part owners of the vessel, become security for the true landing thereof in England, our port being too public a port to commit frauds of the like nature as is suggested in your Grace's letter of carrying wool into foreign parts. The premises considered your petitioners humbly pray

That according to ancient custom and practice in case of obtaining licence that your Grace and Honble. Privy Council may propose a way for the encouragement of trade by granting licence, as heretofore hath been used time out of mind in this port, or otherwise with such

restrictions as your Grace and most Honble. Privy Council shall think fit to direct, to the end that petty dealers in small quantities of wool may be permitted as our assignees to endorse it on our licences as heretofore. So as not to be exposed to the trouble and charge of taking out distinct licence for such small quantities which many times happen to be less than one hundred stone, and sometimes not above ten or twenty stone, they freighting our vessels with cattle, sheep and such small quantities of wool, for which we or some of us are and will always be obliged to have certificate returned as the law directs, without which not only your Petitioners (as at this day) but several petty chapmen that come from and are frequently passing to England, must and will desist both from buying and exporting wool, not only to the diminution of trade, but also to our considerable loss in the freight of our ships, some of us not dealing in that commodity, and that order may be given with all imaginable strictness to the officers of the Custom House to take good and sufficient security for any wool, woollen yarn, &c., to be entered and shipped off from hence, to no other end but that licence may as heretofore be ready in the office for the shipping off of greater or less quantities of wool at uncertain times when strangers and such as manage the affair of exporting cattle bring it either to sell or ship off by freighting our ships and other vessels, and as in duty bound your Petitioners shall ever pray.

EDWARD LAWNDY, MATHEW SPENCER, JOHN MERRICK, RICH. DANTER, JOHN ATKIN, EBENEZER MURDOCK, JOHN DANTER, JOHN MELHUISE (for RICH. YEATS), ROBT. BALL, JAMES DOWLEN, EDWARD CROCKFORD, THO. LAWRENCE, GEORGE HAYLES, JOHN JONES (for CHRISTOP. TUTTHILL), JOHN HITCHCOCKE, JOHN VAUGHAN, THO. BAKER, junr. 1679.

Endorsed 7th July, 1679.—Referred to the Farmers of His Majesty's Revenue in Ireland to consider of the within petition and certify what they conceive fit to be done thereupon.

ORMOND.

MICH. ARMACH. C., JO. DUBLIN, BLESSINTON, GRANARD, LANESBOROUGH, HEN. MIDENSIS, R. COOTE, ROB. FITZGERALD, RO. BOOTH, JOHN KEATINGE, JO. BYSSE, OL. ST. GEORGE.

Further Endorsed July 23, 1679.—May it please your Grace and Lordships

In obedience to the above order of reference, we have considered of the within petition of the merchants and traders in the port of Youghal, and do humbly certify that we do not conceive it anyway prejudicial to His Majesty's Revenue or interest that licences be granted as formerly for the trans-

portation of wool in such manner as by the petition is desired. And that it will be a very great encouragement to petty dealers in that commodity and poor tenants if your Grace shall think fit to allow thereof to have the liberty to endorse upon any licence then in being (as heretofore was usual), such small quantities of wool as they shall have occasion to transport, provided good security be taken for the returning certificate according to law. All which is humbly submitted to your Grace and this honourable Board this 23rd July, 1679.

E. RICHBELL.

STAN. MILL.

J. GOURNEY.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, July 25, Whitehall.—Upon reading to His Majesty in Council a petition of several Protestant proprietors of houses in the town of Galway to your Grace, representing the great decay of trade in that town by reason of the removal of the Irish inhabitants out of the said town, and praying that such of them may be restored as shall give good security for their loyalty and peaceable deportment: His Majesty was pleased to declare, that his former directions for removing Irish Papists from inhabiting in Corporations having been grounded upon an Address of the House of Peers here, his Majesty thinks not fit at present to make any alteration therein. Which is all I have to return upon that matter.

EARL OF ANGLESEY to ORMOND.

1679, July 26, London.—Your letter of the 17th I received the 23rd instant, and the next day at Hampton Court in Council obeyed your Grace's commands therein for setting the Lord Mountgarret at liberty, which Mr. Secretary Coventry will send your Grace order for this post, and in other particulars that were the same day ordered at Council. This post your Grace will also receive His Majesty and Council's final orders for levying the lapse money, wherein I beseech your Grace's favourable despatch in kindness to my Lord Chamberlain and me, your old servant. Your Grace will also receive from Mr. Secretary Coventry the draught of a letter intended by His Majesty to settle my barren lands in Beare and Bantry, which was my reprisals for rich lands in Meath, to be made into two manors with some privileges, wherein I followed the pattern of His Majesty's grants to my Lord Lanesborough. I entreat your lordship's report thereupon may be transmitted by the first to Mr. Secretary, that I may pass my grant in Ireland.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, July 26, Blessinton.—I herewith send your Grace what I received yesterday from my Lord Ranelagh, by which your Grace will find that we are not to expect any of his

lordship's partners to attend their accompt here, if they can avoid it. What his lordship means by signing an accompt there I do not understand. Why Major Moore's applications should disgust his lordship to the degree of a complaint, I cannot see any other reason but that his partners here (from whom he must receive his intelligence) find themselves under some unexpected difficulty to answer them, for in my opinion they do not much differ from what your Grace is directed by a letter from His Majesty and Council for the discovery of compositions. I cannot recollect any reflecting or scandalous words in his paper other than that he is not performed with according to the undertaking, and if that gives the offence I doubt he will meet here with plenty of such entertainment.

What your Grace discoursed as very irrational in Sir George Wakeman's declining to plead, you now find is come to pass. All persons are not of the same temper, and despondency is not the effect of courage but of cowardice. I am in great pain until I shall hear how your Grace compassed your long journey to Tullogh, for there is no man living more concerned for your Grace's person and for your eternal happiness than &c.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE to ORMOND.

1679, July 29, Sheen.—Since the honour I received of a letter from your Grace, I have met with nothing worth your trouble from hence, besides what I know goes constantly from better hands. That which I presumed your Grace would be content to know at this time is what I received yesterday in a letter from the Prince of Orange, whereby I find that after all the endeavours of the French to encourage and heighten a party in the State there in favour of alliances with France and in opposition to the Prince, which has been hitherto kept up for several months past by the town of Amsterdam alone, that town is now fallen in wholly with the rest of the towns and provinces into a perfect conjunction of interests and sentiment with the Prince, so that I look upon that State as more united at this time than it has been since that of his great grandfather, which is a point of very great importance in the present state of affairs in Christendom. The next thing to be desired were the same good fortune here, which His Majesty seems resolved to endeavour, but of which no man can yet make any judgment but that it must be determined by the event of next session of Parliament, and thereby I think the fate not only of these nations but the rest of Europe too. In the meantime I cannot but rejoice with your Grace in particular upon the happy success of His Majesty's affairs in Scotland, which could not have continued long embroiled without very ill effects upon Ireland, either by drawing off those troops which ought to preserve the peace of that kingdom or raising humours that might disturb it. I wish your Grace a long continuance

of all good fortunes and good health, and to myself many occasions of expressing the truth and passion wherewith, &c.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, July 29, London.—Had I received on Saturday last your Grace's of the 22nd and 23rd instant (which came not to my hands till this day, being sent in my Lord Ossory's packet to Windsor) my letter to your Grace on Saturday had been much shortened in those hints I gave relating to my Lord Ranelagh's accounts, which your Grace has, I find, put into so good a method that nothing is to be added to it. I did in my last tell your Grace that he now gives out that he suddenly intends for Ireland, having borrowed money in order to it, and if he goes (as your Grace guesses) he may carry strong and powerful recommendations to your Grace and my Lord Chancellor, and yet not with design to stand him in any other stead than a civil reception; for the approaching Parliament (to which my Lord Ranelagh will be as obnoxious as any person whatsoever) will keep everybody in awe, and therefore it will concern your Grace to have those accounts (if possible) determined before they meet. I have received your Grace's bill of exchange for the 30th, which I have this afternoon sent to be accepted, and then I shall deliver it to the party for whom your Grace designs it, who will, I dare undertake, with all duty and zeal imaginable endeavour to deserve your Grace's favour as far as his capacity can enable him. I shall call to Mr. Thynne for a sight of your Grace's letter, and when I next wait upon the King at Windsor, shall lay home to him the impossibility of putting that kingdom into a posture of defence or subsisting with the increase of the charge, without some additional helps from a Parliament. It is the Coffee-house news here that Sir Tho. Armstrong is banished the Court, which I have sometime since expected would be so, and I have given my Lord Arran the reason of it. My brother's account with the East India Committee is now preparing, and as soon as that is over I shall hasten into Ireland to pay my duty to your Grace. The Scotch Lords are not well pleased that their attacks upon my Lord Duke Lauderdale have met with no better success.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, July 29.—My Lord Chamberlain came to London and stayed two days upon the account of seeing James, and his opinion is against his returning any more to Oxford, but would have him in the academy as soon as the weather grows more temperate, which will be a more proper education than the other for one of his quality. I know the hazards and viciousness of an academy is to be objected, but in all things we must trust to fortune or rather Providence when the best

course is taken ; some propose his being an *externi* ; if of these two you will make a choice I submit mine to your opinions. I do think nothing will rid him so much of his fat and phlegmatic humours as the French air. He wants not sense, and if he be not lazy, but makes use of his understanding, I hope he may prove well. My Lord Chamberlain waits an opportunity of discoursing with His Majesty on the subject I mentioned in my last. I have not anything worth troubling my mother with a letter at this present.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, August 2, Whitehall.—The letter from your Grace and Council to me of the 23rd of July I communicated to the Board, who thereupon made this order, which I here enclosed send your Grace copied, that there may be no mistake on my part. They say some of the partners are gone over, and it is reported that my Lord Ranelagh himself will suddenly go. I doubt his welcome will not be very agreeable. You will see by this order that the Council have approved of all that you have done as to this matter and comply with you in what you desire should be done here. His Majesty is gone to the Downs to view the coast there. The Earl of Essex told me but two days since that three of your letters referred to the Commissioners of the Treasury were answered, and that the fourth should immediately be dispatched. We have here no news, at least to be believed. Elections for Parliament men employ men's brains and tongues very much ; most men think the Parliament will be much the same as to the persons, but more the same as to the humour.

I humbly thank your Grace for the recruits of horses, which I received from your groom in very good condition. Sir Nicholas is arrived and looketh as he did, it being hard to describe him otherwise.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, August 2.—To yours of the 12th and 22nd of July, which I received at the same time, to the first, which speaks of my journey to Spain, I shall give you an account of my proceedings therein. I did not motion this without consulting my Lord Chamberlain, who knows more of that place and those things than any person here. His opinion is that to go as an envoy rather than an ambassador does suit more with my quality, and considering that I make no stay, that nothing of an equipage will be expected ; as to the congress, where magnificences will be the fashion, my business will not call me thither, but to Madrid, where I shall not make so long a stay as anything like housekeeping will be expected, and which is not the custom of that Court. If I do not find that the King's allowance will bear my charges, or that I may be spared from hence without omission of my

duty to the Queen or of my service to you, I can easily withdraw any engagement I am under, having left that reservation when I made the proposal to His Majesty. I do not deny but curiosity is an ingredient in this matter, but as I shall easily depart from this, if it be not to your liking, so I assure you I shall not have a temptation to it if I think my presence necessary here upon any account either of duty or honour. The Spanish horses I thought might be acceptable to you, but since you intend not to use them I have let the master of an academy to be erected here to have them, who keeps and teaches them at a cheap rate. As to my son, since your pleasure is for his return to Oxford, I have ordered it on Monday next; my Lord Chamberlain thinks it no advantageous place, but rather an academy, and until the weather be fit for his going into one does invite and desire to have him with himself at Euston. He cannot be with a friend that is possible to be more concerned for him than I find my Lord Chamberlain to be. The King is gone a sea voyage, and nothing new among us.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, August 5, London.—The enclosed paper is an extract of a letter which Mr. Hayes had by the last packet from his father Ottrington, and I saw on Saturday a letter from Sir Robert Reading to Sir James Butler to the same purpose, which I then gave your Grace a hint of, and the enclosed I thought proper for your Grace's view that you may be prepared to take your measures accordingly. But I must beseech your Grace to keep it to yourself, for should it take air we shall have no more informations of this kind. My Lord Ranelagh has this week waited in the bedchamber for another, on purpose to have the opportunity of what favourable despatches he pleases to prepare from His Majesty to your Grace and my Lord Chancellor, for if he can but charm you two, he doubts not but to wheedle the rest of the Commissioners of his accounts, and I have it from very good hands that he brags amongst his friends that he doubts not but by a treat or two to your Grace at Ferrey's [?] and playing with your Grace at Umbra, to accomplish an absolute reconciliation and surmount the difficulties with which he finds himself now embarrassed. All I have to say upon the point is that if your Grace lets him now slip out of your hands and come over hither triumphant after all the representations have come over from the Board against him, he will be for ever established in the King's opinion and favour, and then your Grace must expect such a storm against you as none of your servants here can ever hope to weather, nor indeed will they have heart to attempt it when you shall leave yourself at his mercy after all the cautions you have had and the experience of his malice and treachery towards you which he has practised those several years. That mischief

is preparing against you I have reason to conclude from a rumour spread within this week about the town of a late letter your Grace has written, wherein your Grace in representing the state of that kingdom said that the fanatics there who began to prick up their ears upon the Scotch rebellion do now pull in their horns since the defeat of the rebels. This is taken as a clear argument of your Grace's disaffection to the Protestants, because your Grace by this seems to represent them in this conjuncture as more dangerous to the Government than the Papists of whom the generality of the people here have still very severe impressions from the discovery of the Plot. And it is said that it is very hard measure in your Grace not to unite all the Protestants there who are so disproportionable in number to the Papists. Whether your Grace has writ such a letter I know not; but if you have, the publishing of it in this conjuncture is very injurious to you; and if you have not, the design of your enemies in giving it out now is very palpable, for it is done only with intent to give the approaching Parliament a very ill impression of you, and consequently to prepare them for whatever attack is intended against you. I have not seen Mr. Secretary Coventry these ten days, but I hear he will be in town tomorrow, and then I shall discourse him upon this affair and advise how I may be most serviceable to your Grace in it. Sir Henry Ingoldsby was with me on Sunday, when I found him very full of acrimony against your Grace, of whose slighting him after all his services to you in opposition to the Earl of Orrery, and disobliging him in preferring Drury Wrey to the command of the militia troop in Limerick before his brother George he complains. What motives your Grace had to do this I am not to question, but I could wish he had not been disobliged, for he is a bold talker and has great acquaintance amongst that party who are now getting into the saddle. He, in plain English, says your Grace puts greater confidence in the Papists than the Protestants, that when the Plot was discovered first in Ireland your Grace took so little notice of it that, though the Papists thronged then to Dublin and into the Castle in greater numbers than they had done formerly, yet your Grace did not think fit to double the guards though pressed to it by himself and others; that the guards were without bullet or powder, and that there was no guard considerable upon the magazine where the powder was, and that the Government was then so negligent that the lives of all the Protestants were exposed to the mercy of the Irish; that the settling of the militia was very dilatory; and that when the Protestants contracted with merchants for bringing in arms and ammunition and had obtained licences for it, those licences were again recalled to the manifest danger of the Protestants; and concluded that the Protestants could never be secure while the Government was in your Grace's hands. And when he talks with this

freedom to me I leave your Grace to judge what his behaviour is towards you amongst others. I resolve on Saturday to be at Windsor, where I will take an occasion of acquainting His Majesty with this, that when the reformation of the Council there is taken into consideration it may be remembered. But this justice I must do him, or rather Sir Richard Stephens, who forced him to acknowledge before my Lord Shaftesbury that your Grace proposed the Irish should be immediately disarmed as the English were formerly, but that matter was overruled by another person, with whose opinion the Council there concurred. Perhaps it is not much for your Grace's advantage that your opinion did not take place. And I am as little satisfied as another that you did not exercise the power His Majesty has placed in your hands; but if you will expose yourself, what can your servants answer for you? All I can say is that if your Grace will trust yourself and nobody else I dare answer it with my head if you suffer prejudice, but if you will let the world believe you are governed by others, it is such a reflection upon your prudence as no man can atone for. My Lord, I have always been a plain dealing man, and if I have any place in your friendship you will value me for it. My humble opinion is that your Grace should let the world see you are not influenced by any whatever, and then the devil himself cannot hurt you. Captain Frazer, being by his more important occasions necessitated to attend here in England, begs your Grace's permission that he may dispose of his company there, which I suppose your Grace will not deny him, the same liberty having been afforded to others in his condition. And since your Grace may choose his successor, I humbly conceive His Majesty's service will not suffer by any indulgence your Grace shall think fit to allow him in this particular.

PRIMATE BOYLE TO ORMOND.

1679, August 5, Blessinton.—I received the honour of your Grace's of the 2nd instant, with a copy of Mr. Secretary Coventry's letter concerning the Irish inhabitants of the town of Galway. It seems somewhat strange that such a positive order should be sent to the Chief Governor here without first consulting him in the point, who must be supposed to understand the affairs of that nature which are under his present view and government as well, if not better than any other persons at a distance can pretend unto. But since it hath not been thought fit to advise with your Grace about it, I must think (with submission) that you are rather delivered from a difficulty than involved in one. It ought (as I suppose) to be your Grace's satisfaction rather than trouble that it is not done after your advice had been first taken, for should your Grace's opinion have been given disagreeable to the Address of the House of Lords, perhaps

it might have been ill interpreted if the bend of that House at the next meeting should incline the same way they did before. Besides it is not certain what use might have been made thereof by some who are not over kind to your Grace's proceedings, but now those difficulties seem to be over, you have nothing to do but to obey and let the consequence be what it will your Grace is without blame. As to the order of the Council in this kingdom, that cannot certainly stick much in your way, but will soon be reversed by the same Council, when your Grace shall acquaint them with His Majesty's directions in that matter. It may perhaps be some question with your Grace whether it may be convenient to acquaint His Majesty with this order of Council, for by that your Grace's and the Council's sense will appear to be differing from the sense of the House of Lords. I cannot suppose there can be any force in that objection to your Grace's disadvantage, for what your Grace and the Council did therein was upon the opinion that the exclusion of the Irish out of that place and at that time would conduce to the prejudice and enfeebling of that garrison, and was done upon the application of the Protestant proprietors and inhabitants, who were principally concerned for the safety of that place because it included their own, but since His Majesty hath his sense to the contrary your Grace and Council have immediately submitted thereunto and ordered it accordingly. So that my humble advice is that your Grace should transmit those very reasons to Mr. Secretary which were the ground of your Grace's and the Council's judgment in the point, but not with any shew of insisting upon the weight of them until His Majesty's pleasure be farther known, for this would look like a kind of arguing His Majesty's orders upon the Address of the Lords.

I have presumed to give your Grace this long impertinent nothing upon this occasion, not knowing whether your Grace will be pleased to command my attendance at Kilkenny at the time appointed, when your Grace shall be informed that the same time (the 19th of this month) is the prefixed day for my being at my visitation at Drogheda, where all the clergy of the diocese of Armagh are long since summoned to meet me, and I am under an obligation of giving them some sort of a public treat, and I shall not return hither until the Saturday following. I humbly beg your Grace's pleasure herein by the first conveniency, that I may dispose myself accordingly, for your Grace's commands must ever govern me.

I had not troubled your Grace with the enclosed from my Lord of Orrery, but that his lordship hath desired me to do it. The complaint you will find not much worthy your Grace's time or notice, for the gentleman complained of hath ever been of good repute as to his affections for His Majesty's service, and hath shewed himself such in the worst of times.

The truth of it is he hath the qualification of Sir Nicholas Purdon's chaplain, he is quarrelsome in his drink. Something my Lord of Orrery will expect from me in answer thereunto when I have received your Grace's directions upon this mighty concern. This is not that Stawell who was the receiver for the fort, but it is his eldest brother, a man not much considerable in the world, either for his fortune or his parts.

[Encloses the following letter.]

EARL OF ORRERY TO PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, August 1, Castlemartyr.—About a fortnight since Mr. Beversham came hither and first told my Lord Archbishop of Tuam that his new brother-in-law had some days before at Bandon said to him that the King was no king without a Parliament, and that he said so more than once, and spoke those guilty words with oaths, and after he told the same things to me. I said they were very criminal words, and therefore desired him to set down in writing what he would justify. He said he would and went out of the room, and, as I thought, to do then what he had said. But about an hour after he came to me again but had not written the words, and told me he begged leave that he might write them to me from Cork, where he was then going. I told him the sooner the better. I then asked him whether any were present when Mr. Stawell spoke the words, and when and in what place they were spoken. He told me they were spoken some few days before, and that they were spoken in Mr. Stawell's own chamber about ten at night in an inn at Bandon, and that one Mr. Philpot was present. I desired him then to write to me in his promised letter from Cork where this Mr. Philpot lived, that I might send for and examine him. From Cork I received a letter from Mr. Beversham, of which the enclosed is a true copy for so much as concerns this affair. I instantly sent an express messenger for Mr. Philpot, who came hither yesterday, and having enjoined him to give me a true relation of what he knew in this business, he gave me a verbal one. I then did appoint him to give it me in writing, which accordingly he did, a true copy whereof I here also present to your Grace. And this morning as my Lord Archbishop of Tuam was with me in my chamber, I received a letter by an express messenger from Mr. Jonas Stawell, a true copy whereof I here also present to your Grace. And having thus done, I desire your Grace's judgment what is fit to be done by me on the whole matter, that accordingly I may proceed. I am a stranger to Mr. Stawell, but I have often heard he was not only in the worst of times a loyal subject, but also an eminent sufferer for being so. And if your Grace will have my own private thoughts on this whole affair, I believe Mr. Stawell is still what he was, and is believed to be so by most who know him, but is not free from the vice of drinking, and I believe in his drink spoke

those vile words, for Mr. Philpot owns he was so drunk when he spoke them that next morning when he was sober and Mr. Philpot blamed him for what he had said, he was so far from justifying that he remembered not he had said them, but was heartily sorry if he had spoken them. However, one vice is so far from excusing another that it aggravates the guilt in my opinion. But I look upon it as the words of his wine and not as the words of his heart. This being the true state of the thing as far as I can learn of it, I beg your Grace to lay it before his Excellency and that I may receive his or your Grace's pleasur for the better guidance of, etc.

Postscript.—I had the welcome favour this post of a letter from my Lord Blessington, which I assure your Grace I was not a little pleased with. I beseech God long to continue him his health and under a full sense of God's mercy in this last deliverance.

EARL OF ORRERY to ORMOND.

1679, August 5, Castlemartyr.—I received last night with all imaginable gratitude the great honour of your Excellency's letter of the 3rd instant, and was very glad to find in it that the duty of mine on the occasion of your Grace's arrival at Kilkenny was so favourably received.

I am very sorry that during this vacancy (considering the ill state and condition of this Kingdom) your Excellency's reiterated representations both to my Lord Essex and Mr. Secretary Coventry for the redress of it have not received the return which in my humble opinion the need seems to require. I will hope yet that a business of that high importance will be its own solicitor, and procure for your Grace speedily all requisite orders, for if those be not hastened I more than doubt there will hardly be time to be spared about Ireland when the Parliament of England meets, which, as my London letters say, 'tis declared it shall on the 17th of October next.

However, your Grace will have the honest comfort that you have not omitted to represent and to press for what you did judge requisite for His Majesty's service and the safety of this his kingdom, the posture of which is such that I think a Parliament only can substantially mend it; for I fear such retrenchments as can be made and such frugality as can be designed are plasters too narrow for our sores. Such methods may be of good effect in private families, but where a whole nation needs quick remedies, I fear only national contributions will prove solidly effectual. But all that, I apprehend, will be but patching work, which I never was very fond of, for I have still observed it to be slow uncertain and commonly unacceptable. But God's will and the King's must always be obeyed, and their time must be waited for.

My Lady Clancarty is very desirous if it may stand with your Excellency's pleasure to have the Scotch company

continued at Macroom, and I humbly think it will be of safety to the country.

We have lately had two unlucky accidents. A Scotch drummer refusing to bring his drum on the guard when commanded by his serjeant, and, giving the serjeant ill language, the serjeant with his stick struck the drummer, who instantly drew his sword and ran it up to the hilts through the serjeant's thigh, who fell; the officers coming in the drummer was run through the body and died that night. Notice thereof being instantly sent me, I ordered the law to be fully prosecuted. I doubt the serjeant also will die of his wound. One of Captain Lockhart's servants, just as that company was ready to march out of Cork, shot by accident an English gentleman in the streets and killed him dead on the place. The soldier in Captain Melvin's company who killed his comrade in a duel, and who I ordered to be sent to Cork Gaol, is fled with the iron bolts on one of his feet. Some runaways of the Scotch Regiment being taken, and the officers sending to me for orders what to do, I appointed them to be sent to Cork, there to be proceeded against at a Court Martial according to your Excellency's Articles of War, but where life or limb is to be touched, first humbly to inform your Grace, and then to stop proceedings till your commands are signified.

I have just now an express from Kinsale, with notice that some of our West Indian ships are safely arrived there. I have a great complaint of false wall work made in the fort of Rincorran, which I have sent Thorsby to examine.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1679, August 6.—I am to take this first opportunity of signifying to your Excellency that my Lord James is now safely returned hither, a place, tho' perhaps not so desirable to him as the Court which he has left, yet, I hope, of more real advantage to him, and which may contribute to the rendering his future conversation in the courts of princes more successful both to himself and to the public. I am also to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's commands in behalf of Mr. Lane, which I shall endeavour to obey, as I doubt not but the Vice-Chancellor will, who is now entered upon his office, being hastened by the Warden of Winchester's earnest desire to remove to his new administration.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, August 7.—I return Mr. Recorder Worth's letter and beseech you to take the pains to thank him in my behalf not only for remembering so well what I recommended to his care, but for his kind invitation. I shall whilst I am in this Government have use of his diligence and prudence in his station, but I do not think I shall this year give him trouble of my company, but I depend on both as occasion shall offer.

The last letters I had from London confirm my Lord of Ranelagh's intention to pass over. Those that are not his friends do much apprehend his great dexterity will bring him off in triumph, and they say he brags that he knows all our blind sides and how to deal with us ; but I neither believe all that is said of him or by him. It concerns him to make use of all his own abilities and other men's defects of any kind, and it also concerns all that are to act any part in his affairs as judges or examiners to be as vigilant and circumspect of him and his partners and agents as fair and just towards them, and this is the temper and conduct I propose to myself and wish in *[two lines illegible through fire here]* in itself of great importance to the King and his subjects of this kingdom, and in the consequence may extend further than at first sight may be thought.

Your Grace, I presume, has seen the trial of Sir George Wakeman and the others that were acquitted, so much to the wonder of many and discontent of more. The consequence of that acquittal may reach far, and without question is well understood by parties most immediately concerned on both hands. God of His mercy direct all for the peace and good settlement of the Crown, Church and People of these kingdoms. It is written out of England that Sir Tho. Armstrong is dismissed the Court, and I suppose in consequence from his military employment in the Guards, the ground not said, but not hard to conjecture.

Postscript.—*[a line is illegible here]* the account signed by my Lord of Ranelagh's co-partners in England I know not what it imports or what change it may make in the manner of proceeding in that affair, but whenever I shall be told it may be necessary for me to be near the Comrs, I will hasten to them. It is said Roger Moore discourses more favourably of the undertakers than formerly. If he has raised the price of his atonement by getting into office under the Commissioners and under colour of preparing matters for them, it will be discovered, and he will lose ground in my opinion ; but I hope it is but groundless suspicion, and perhaps of such as would themselves do so if they were in his case. However, I thought it not unfit to give your Grace the intimation I have had.

REV. TIMOTHY HALTON to ORMOND.

1679, August 7, Queen's College, Oxford.—I should have esteemed it a very great happiness if your Excellency would have spared me from being Vice-Chancellor in respect of the great number of persons who are every way better qualified for that employment than myself. But since 'tis your Excellency's pleasure I shall discharge it as faithfully as I can. At the same time almost I have received your Excellency's letter in favour of Mr. Lane, whose interest I shall promote to the utmost of my power, as being always ready to manifest myself, etc.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1679, August 8, Whitehall.—I wrote to your Grace some few days past from Windsor, at which time I applauded much my Lord Ossory's journey into Spain, and nothing since could occur to me to make me like it less—but that some letters from your Grace received since the writing mine seem to say it is not so agreeable to you, but I hope you will be pleased to give something to my being here upon the place and not altogether a stranger to that Court whither he is to go and to carry from His Majesty a jewell to his neice to the value of 10,000*l.* which must needs adorn his errand and is in itself one of the genteelest that can ever befall him to be employed in, and will not be either of so long a duration or expense as your Grace may perhaps fancy it will be : in a word, my opinion is that he need not spend any more than he gets by the journey, and the case being so that in honour and *éclat* he will be a gainer by it. Now if these or any other better reflections can induce you to like it I hope you will be easily prevailed with to write a letter to Don. Juan de Austria, to whom you were so well known in the Low Countries, and from whom you received much courtesy, at least at the rate that courtesy went then.

The next matter I have to trouble your Grace with is to give you an account of the discourse I had with His Majesty upon your subject at my leaving Windsor ; it will not be necessary to tell you how I introduced it and with how much impatience His Majesty heard me offer at giving him any reasons why he should continue you in that government. He protested it had never entered into his thoughts to remove you ; he would not deny but others (who are full counsel now as to his affairs) might wish it, but for himself he knew no subject fitter for it than you, nor in whose hands he could better trust it, and for conclusion bade me assure you with all confidence that as long as he kept his place you should keep yours, but added it would not be enough I should tell you this, he would do it himself and by the first post. This is what I hope will be very acceptable to your Grace. I am sure it was to me and all your friends to whom I imparted it, especially when I ventured to assure them they might believe it and depend upon it.

Now, if all this will not get me my hawk I am an unlucky man. I have a small business of 1,250 pounds from my Lord Ranelagh, and my share in the lapse money, which I will give you some leisure for. I am going to Euston until the Parliament meets, to make this time pass as quickly as I can, for at October we must look to hear things that will make our ears tingle.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, August 9.—The King, a little after his discourse with my Lord Chamberlain, told me the substance of it and said

many kind things in confirmation of them. I saw my Lord Chamberlain's letter concerning my Spanish journey, unto which I promise myself your consent, else I shall easily desist. I have formerly sent you an account of the method used in Holland for clothing the army, as also what their pay is, Since our soldiers have more and live in a cheaper country, I know no reason why they should not be as well accoutered as the horseguards of the Prince of Orange, who have little more than half that those in Ireland have, yet are much better clothed and mounted. You will pardon me if I mind you of having the army better exercised; the Scotch Regiment can instruct and let them see how wanting they are in this particular. I doubt not but you will think it proper to send over my brother towards the time of the Parliament's sitting and to consider of the several addresses made by the Lords concerning Ireland, unto which a satisfactory account will be required and very necessary for you to give. James is gone to Oxford. I have given him the best advice I could, but when I consider how little good the best admonitions did me when of his years, I cannot reasonably hope they will work upon him. Sir Charles Meredith spoke to me of an employment laid upon him by you and the Board in countersigning the orders of the Farmers, and that a recompense was promised to him and Dr. Topham, his associate, in Sir J. Cuffe's place. I do entreat you in this particular to endeavour to see him fair justice, and to befriend him in all other things, for I assure you I know not any of our friends that have carried themselves better towards you than he has done, and for myself I must own myself very much obliged to him. The sooner you write will be the better, and I will join mine with my Lord of Essex's endeavours to serve him.

SIR NICHOLAS ARMORER to ORMOND.

1679, August 9, London.—Since my being here I have not been able to give your Grace any account worth your trouble. The day I came hither the King was embarked in his yacht for Portsmouth. Your Grace's old friend, Ned Villiers, took me along with him down the river, where we overtook the King at Greenwich at dinner, His Majesty was in very good humour and asked with great kindness after your Grace's health, only used me as your Grace and Mr. Secretary does, was a little too bold with my countenance at first, but in the close was more obliging, and declared in the presence of all that I was returned an Irish beauty, that he had known me thirty-five years and never saw me look so well. I made bold to beg it under his hand. That the said was needless since the face would vouch for itself. Before he sailed, he told me we should have guns, and commanded me to go to the Commissioners of the Ordnance, whom I have attended at the Tower, who can do nothing until the return of Sir Tho.

Chicheley, who is now in Cheshire; but Sir John, his son, tells me he will be here the next week, and then I shall attend and get them together, but in short they tell me we can have no guns without money, and how hard that will be to get here I think I need not tell your Grace. The King commanded me to attend him at Windsor after his return and bring him the draught of what was done, which I intend to do to-morrow morning with Mr. Powell, who expresses great honour and service for your Grace; he is lately married to the lady Dorset and not like to have a great charge of children.

Sir John Chicheley took Mr. Crispine's papers to have them read at the Navy Board when it is a full Board. I was there with some of them. I think they will understand Crispine as he is. Here will be little business done till after Newmarket, all people being gone to their country friends or to the waters. I shall omit no opportunity to hasten my return, being weary of every corner already, except Enfield Chase and the old gentleman there. I hope he gives your Grace thanks for his garrans himself, he is mighty fond of *Dun* and hopes to recover him.

I have writ to my Lord of Arran of a discourse my Lord Chamberlain had lately with the King, which the King commanded my lord to write to your Grace, and said he would write it to you himself. God continue him in that good mind is the wishes of all good men.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, August 9, Whitehall.—The last week H. Thynne gave your Grace an account of the reports made by the Commissioners of the Treasury to the several letters. I have not advanced any further in that matter till I know how far you are satisfied with those alterations by them made, which when declared I shall get the letters drawn accordingly and transmit them to your Grace. Mr. Attorney wrote me a letter concerning the draught of a letter to be sent me by your Grace for putting in a son of his into the reversion of the Hamper Office, but there is no such letter come yet to me, so I am not able to serve him in it, but when the letter cometh from your Grace I shall endeavour it the best I can.

I cannot but acquaint your Grace that here hath been a malicious report raised that your Grace should write a letter to His Majesty with these or such like expressions:—That upon the news of the rebellion in Scotland the Protestants in Ireland pricked up their ears, but upon their defeat they seemed much crestfallen. Being told of it, I answered you had never wrote any such thing to me, and I believed not to His Majesty, but that I would inquire of the King, which accordingly on Thursday last I did, and he frankly declared never to have received any such letter from you; but from thence fell into another discourse, which I cannot

but transmit to your Grace. "My Lord of Ormond is worse used then," said he, "for I hear the Coffee-houses have disposed of his lieutenancy; but the gentlemen are very much mistaken, for I know no man whose service I can less spare than my Lord of Ormond's, and I had never more need of men of his principles than now," and seemed to say he would let you know it under his own hand, but that being a work he goeth somewhat slow to, I thought fitting to give your Grace this accompt as I had it from his own mouth. We have now a recess from Councils till the Wednesday after Michaelmas.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, August 12, Carrick.—I hope your children are by this time with you either with or without Mrs. Ferrers. I shall determine nothing concerning Tom Fairfax till I come to Kilkenny, nor of any vacancy upon Chester's death. I send you my Lord of Longford's letter to you, and assure you as plain as the English he writ is I cannot collect the sense. He expresses great kindness and I am sure means kindly, but every little story he hears gives him a hot alarm for me; and the worst is he has forgot that he informed me of the same things before and had answers to them, which I have been fain to tell him and desire him to look over all the letters I writ to him since the discovery of the Plot.

Mr. N. in a letter to me says that my Lord Ranelagh doubts not but to make you his friend for a little money; so there is plain dealing on all hands. But what angers me is that my lord as well as he seems to fear I shall be taken off and supposes we may toss my Lord Ranelagh in a blanket if we will. He tells me Sir H. Ingoldsby is fierce against me, and sets down all he says, which is just the libel supposed to be the Bishop of Meath's, to the material parts of which he remembers not he has answers by him.

PRIMATE BOYLE TO ORMOND.

1679, August 12, Dublin.—I am to acknowledge the honour of three of your Grace's of the 7th instant, and likewise one of the 8th. I have according to your Grace's commands writ to the Recorder of Cork that your going into that country this summer is somewhat uncertain, and that the probability lies rather in the negative, and I acknowledged from your Grace the civility of his invitation.

Captain Stone was with me at Blessinton and shewed me Sir James Shaen's paper, by which it is very evident that the partners do not agree amongst themselves, but that they drive on different designs, which may bring this advantage to His Majesty's service, that their wrangles may conduce to a discovery and detection of that mystery which they have hitherto kept private to themselves. Upon the receipt of your Grace's I sent immediately to Dublin to appoint

a meeting of the Comrs. upon the accompts, but I find nobody here but Sir John Davis and Mr. Yarnar. My Lord Chief Justice is ill of the gout, and could not come to us; he sent his excuse.

The Auditor's Office is miserably neglected. Their peculiar employment in this affair is like that of the common apposers in the Exchequer. They should inquire into all the difficulties of the accompts and propose them to the Commissioners, but neither Chappel nor Pilkinton were present; only a stranger attended who understood but little of the business, and indeed as it happened there was not much need of him, for Mr. Stepney, being called upon to know what he had to object to those accompts which were transmitted by your Grace and Lordships into England, he said that he knew not what those were, but that he had received the copy of an account which ended the 25th of December, '75, signed by all his partners in England, and that the original was in Captain Stone's hands, and that he was directed by them to proceed upon that account. I told him that it was very improper for us to admit of a new account at this time of the day; that we (the Comrs.) had presented to the Lord Lieutenant and Council long since an account under our hands; that your Grace and Council had remitted this into England; that the Lords of the Council had returned this again to your Grace with directions how that accompt should be proceeded on to a final determination of the whole undertaking; and for us to receive a new accompt, and that to determine the 25th of December were to lay aside all that hath been doing all this time, and to proceed contrary to the several directions out of England, which was for a final accompt; and that by such an accompt as he mentioned, the King could not in any degree be satisfied of the true state of the undertaking. Mr. Stepney answered that they would proceed immediately after that accompt was stated to a perfect and conclusive state of the undertaking. I told him that was more than we could reasonably expect, they having delayed us all this time; but if they would make use of anything in this new accompt either to enlarge or rectify what is amiss in their former accompt that we would hear them to it; but to begin a new method now we found no reason to induce us, but must wholly submit that unto your Grace's and the Council's pleasure, unto whom he was (as he said) directed by his partners to present this new accompt. Mr. Stepney told us that the former account which was given us, and upon which we proceeded, was not founded upon a sufficient authority, for though the authority which he had was seemingly subscribed by all his partners, yet it was not Mr. Dashwood's hand, but that some person subscribed his name officiously thereunto; unto which he was answered that he and his partners were to look to that; that was not our business.

By discourse with Mr. Stepney I find that they have not brought into this new accompt upon which they would proceed either the 24,000*l.* which was borrowed from the King, or the 80,000*l.* to the King, and some other great payments besides, but they would refer these to a subsequent and final accompt, by which I apprehend that to recover their reputations they would conclude one account at December which must certainly leave the King in their debt, and for the great and final account which doubtless will change the balance exceedingly (those great sums being to be then accounted for) that they will take what time for that they shall think most convenient for their business. I was willing to give your Grace an account of all that hath passed in this matter as well as I could recollect, which is the cause that I have trespassed thus extremely upon your Grace's patience, for which I humbly beg your Grace's pardon.

I have since my coming hither inquired into Mr. Moore's proceedings upon the substance of his complaint, and for as much as appears to me he is as zealous as ever he was. And when those Commissioners for that inquiry were before us this day, and they doubted that the Commission by which they were to proceed was not sufficient to justify them in those particulars they might find convenient for the discovery and for the advantage of the service, Mr. Moore said that he apprehended that their present authority was sufficient, and that it was a nicety to scruple it. However, for their satisfaction they were desired by the Commissioners of Accompts that they would draw up into a paper the particulars wherein they thought their authority was short, that they may be presented to the Lord Lieutenant and Council, which is accordingly preparing, and will be presented to your Grace by Colonel Dillon, whom I find acting amongst them as one of their number; but until the return of your Grace's sense upon that paper they are resolved to proceed with diligence upon the authority they already have.

I do not suppose that Sir Charles Meredith will be here as soon as your Grace expects, for I find by Dr. Topham that his stay there at present is principally to obtain some favour from His Majesty in the behalf of himself and of Dr. Topham for the extraordinary pains they have taken in his service; for his encouragement therein your Grace was pleased to tell Sir Charles that you would recommend them both to His Majesty's favour by a letter in their behalfs unto Mr. Secretary Coventry; but Sir Charles having applied himself to Mr. Secretary Coventry upon that account, he cannot find by him that your Grace's letter is received; so that he supposeth that either your Grace's letter miscarried or that amongst the multitude of other business you forgot to write; and I perceive by Dr. Topham that he is resolved to continue at London until he understands your Grace's farther pleasure therein. If your Grace will be pleased to enclose your letter

for Mr. Secretary Coventry unto me, I will take care to have it sent unto Sir Charles Meredith. I must needs suppose that there is some miscarriage of this letter, for I very well remember that when I waited upon your Grace about Sir Charles Meredith, your Grace told me that you had written in their behalfs to Mr. Secretary Coventry.

I have sent your Grace the enclosed, which I received from Sir Wm. Davis, because it concerns the matter for which you now summon the Council to Kilkenny. I am not capable of giving him much advice in that matter, for I presume your letters out of England will govern that affair, notwithstanding any proceedings of the judges in the country. Since I came hither to Dublin I am surprised with a fit of the gout somewhat sharper than usual: what it intends to do with me I cannot yet foresee, but at present it appears somewhat unkind and very unseasonable. It is high time I should conclude your Grace's trouble and my own rudeness. I pray God bless your Grace and all yours.

Postscript.—Mr. Stepney tells me that he expects my Lord Ranelagh here by the next packet.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, August 12, Windsor.—I have not anything since my last to trouble your withal, only again to let you know that I find Sir Charles Meredith a very worthy friend, and one that though perhaps he may wish better to a person that has highly obliged him than to us, which yet I cannot perceive by any word or action of his; yet, granting that, I think he will be so far from endeavouring you a prejudice as I am confident he would be glad of any opportunity of serving you which may not oppose his other friendship; and if this be his mind, I see no reason why he should not from us receive all the testimonies of good-will that can be given him. I entreat you therefore to be careful of his concern, which I recommended to you wherein yours and the Council's word is engaged in a letter I think you writ by him to the Secretary. I find he expected you would, with the good things you said of him, have mentioned that affair.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, August 13, Carrick.—Having written to my Lord Chamberlain of your Spanish journey, I have no more to say to you of it than that tho' it is hard for you to determine in such times as these that there can be no use of your being in some of these kingdoms, yet is very possible it may so fall out that your being out of the way upon the account you propose may be convenient. The matter of expense will regard yourself principally, both in present and for the future, and so I leave it to your own conduct.

I am glad James is gone to Oxford again, having seen a letter from the Bishop to Dr. Moreton complaining of his remove and of the too much credit given to some little stories, and of the too little confidence reposed in him. All I desire is that he may not be stirred thence till I may have some knowledge of it and of what shall be designed to be done with him.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ORREERY.

1679, August 14, Carrick.—I have not been far, yet I have been in so much motion, and that being of late unusual with me so indisposed me as to writing, that I must beg your lordship's pardon that I have not yet answered your letters dated before that of the 11th, which I received this morning as I was getting a-horseback. So that having left your letters at Kilkenny I am to say something in general upon my memory.

Whatever disorder or misfortune hath happened in the Scottish Regiment either amongst themselves or with any of the King's subjects, triable and determinable by law, ought and I presume will be so proceeded in, and if the runaways can be so prosecuted and the crime made capital, as some lawyers have told me they may by virtue of some statute, one fit example of that kind would do more good than anything that can be inflicted on them by a Court Martial, and of this I shall write to my Lord Chief Justice Keating, who is now at Waterford. But if he shall be of opinion that the law will not reach the crime, or if it be thought that a jury will be loath to find the matter of fact, the consequence being the loss of life, it will be best to proceed as far as we may prudently to punish deserters by a Court Martial.

As to what concerns Mr. Villars and Roe I return your lordship the information enclosed in yours, desiring that you would send for Roe and examine him how he durst presume to send a challenge to a gentleman of Mr. Villars his quality and place in the King's service; and if either he shall confess his having sent such a challenge, or if it can be proved against him, I conceive your lordship should take sufficient security of him to appear before the Council at Dublin the first Council day the next term there to answer for his misdemeanour. I conceive he will not be hard to be found, since he had the confidence to send me a petition this morning complaining of his having been disarmed, which that he may appear before your lordship I have referred to you. If I thought the law would sufficiently vindicate the honour and authority of the Board upon this occasion, I would refer it thither, but I think the Council will best judge of and determine the matter.

ORMOND TO PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, August 15, Kilkenny.—I never complain of the length of letters, either that I can or need not answer; all that is

necessary to be said to your Grace's of the 12th is that as by it I have clear information of the present desires and pretensions of some of the accountants for the Earl of Ranelagh and his partners' undertaking, so it does not occur to me what your Grace and the rest of the Commissioners can yet do more than you have done. I know not how to judge of the agreement or dissension of the undertakers by any thing they say or do. I find them often railing at one another and refusing to act in concert, and yet it is visible enough they agree in delaying a conclusion of the matter; but there is no reason their falling out, tho' it should be in earnest, or their combination if it be artificial, should frustrate the industry and pains of the Commissioners or retard the legal prosecution commanded and expected, and that and nothing else is it which is like to discover the true state of that affair and all the mysteries belonging to it. When Colonel Dillon shall bring the paper there will be a want of some of the Commissioners to help me and the Council to judge of the fitness of any further authority that shall be required.

I did tell your Grace that I had written to Mr. Secretary Coventry much in the commendation of Sir Charles Meredith and it is true, but I did not propose any augmenting of his or Dr. Topham's salary, nor do I remember that I promised to do it, being unwilling that any addition of charge upon this Revenue should be proposed first by me; but what I writ I thought would incline the King to think it reasonable at least to refer a further allowance to them to my report, which I was and still am ready to make as favourable as I can when the consideration of it shall be referred to me; but it must be their labour to procure such a reference. The letter I writ to Mr. Secretary was about the same time Sir Charles went, and I found by returns to that letter that the Secretary did a little wonder that he had not received a visit or any kind of application from Sir Charles in many weeks after he was at London, considering how advantageous a character I had given of him. This is the true state of that affair as far as I can remember, which I desire your Grace to impart to Dr. Topham, that he, if he thinks fit, may send it to Sir Charles, from whom having no letter since he went, I know not what to say to him. I am sorry your Grace is so unseasonably attacked by the gout. I receive little consolation in that case when men tell me it will lengthen my life and therefore will not offer it for your case.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, August 17, Windsor.—As to what concerns my son, which is the subject of your last of the 11th of this month, you will before this have heard of his return to Oxford, there to stay during your pleasure. I assure you his education and welfare are the things in the world in which I am most solicitous; all your friends do believe him well provided

for by having St. Helene to go abroad with him and to inspect his learning, his exercises, and Mons. D'Arlincourt [Drelincourt] to keep him to his study, and above all in his religion. Whether being in an academy or extern, I confess their being objections and arguments on both sides I know not what to advise; if you please to determine the point I shall rest satisfied, otherwise I am for taking the opinions of those persons unto whom he is intrusted when they are upon the place. Your allowance is sufficient, and I think more than others of his quality have there of his years, and I charged Mons. D'Arlincourt that he is not in the least to exceed when they are in France. I hope you do not think me capable of engaging myself in anything of importance without your leave; if my being absent and an impossibility of staying for it does not prevent it. In this concerning my Spanish journey I left myself room for a retreat until I knew your mind. To be exact in my duty towards you has been and ever shall be the care and study of my life. Being at London two days since, I received commands to hasten hither to accompany Lady Anne to Brussels. I found at my coming that this was not agreeable to the Queen, so she ordered things with the King as I am excused from that expedition. My Lord of Shaftesbury's emissaries are very busy in raising jealousies of your not being careful for the Protestant interest. They complain of the excessive rates of powder, and do little value truth in what they affirm. I wish you would early consider what the addresses of the House of Lords were relating to Ireland, that satisfactory reasons may be given why they were not complied withal. I have sent you formerly the method used in Holland for clothing their army, and what the pay is of horse and foot, and what is deducted upon the account of equipping of them, that as far as you judge reasonable you may follow such rules. If you see the regiment late of my Lord of Dumbarton you will find by them that in point of exercising our foot are very defective. The King said the other day that he would have them beat the Scotch march, and for their rank it should be the same as was allowed them here.

PRIMATE BOYLE TO ORMOND.

[1679, August.]—I have received a lamentable letter from Sir Francis Brewster from Dingle. He complains mightily that the people in that place are so apprehensive of the Turks that they have quit their houses and the country in a great degree, and if your Grace will not recover them their hearts again by sending a company into Dingle to countenance them against the attempts of that formidable enemy, he doubts that part of the country will be utterly forsaken. Your Grace, as I remember, did promise them a company, and the Corporation upon your Grace's promise have raised 20*l*. to fit up the castle for the receipt of the soldiers (as he tells

me). I humbly presume to become your Grace's remembrancer in that particular, for certainly there is not a place in all Kerry that stands more in need of a company than Dingle. I begin my journey towards Drogheda upon Monday next, and hope to be returned upon the Saturday following.

[Endorsed : Received August 17, 1679.]

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, August 19.—I have received one from your Grace of the instant. I have not had any discourse with my Lord of Essex concerning the letter you mentioned. The truth is all of us Councillors are so scattered that we meet not but by accident, there being no day appointed for any of us to meet either at London or Windsor; only I hear that Sir John Temple is come over and hath been some days at Cassiobury where his brother Sir William met him. I had some discourse on the 7th instant with His Majesty about a Parliament in Ireland, and can only tell you this: I find him no way of opinion there should be held two Parliaments together, so I suppose you must expect the event of this next session here before anything will be determined concerning a Parliament with you. But the coming of Sir John Temple will, I hope, remove all obstacles concerning the bills you sent us, that when the season shall be judged fit we may not lose time in adjusting those doubts.

As to the other letter from your Grace and the Council to me with the enclosed petition of Peter Talbot and the certificates, I could not shew it the Council for the reason above mentioned, that no Council is to meet till the Thursday after Michaelmas; but I shewed it His Majesty, who commanded me to return this answer, that you and the Council can best judge of the matter of fact asserted in the petition, and if you judge him to be in that desperate condition, His Majesty is contented you should let him go into the country for the air, provided you take sufficient bail and all other ways provide against his escape. The King and Council here have given leave to my Lord Bellasis for a short time to go into the country, but besides his bail they have appointed two of the warders of the Tower to be with him at his house, but as to this I have no order to give your Grace any directions. I only acquaint you with it as my own observation, and I suppose your order if you give it will be that he return whenever your Grace shall think fitting to summon him. And this is what I had from His Majesty in answer to the letter sent me by your Grace and Council of the — instant. As concerning Mr. Hayes and my Lord Ranelagh's affairs, till the re-meeting of the Council I can give your Grace no further account.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, August 19, Dublin.—I have the honour of your Grace's of the 15th instant, and shewed to Dr. Topham as much

thereof as concerned Sir Charles Meredith, and have given him a copy thereof according to your Grace's directions, which I presume is very sufficient in that affair. I hear nothing yet of my Lord Ranelagh's landing, but I have now received the enclosed from my Lord Conway, which speaks something of his purposes to leave London this last week, but I hear no more of it. I know not from whom your Grace received the copy of Mr. Ottrington's letter, nor is it material I should, but it appears by that that the partners are upon different interests, and it is to be hoped that those disagreements will bring the whole matter to some clearness.

I formerly acquainted your Grace that I writ to my Lord Conway about the necessity of a Parliament in this kingdom before the King's affairs could be put into any tolerable posture. His lordship shewed my letter (as I apprehended he would) and the enclosed is a return thereunto. If I may receive any further commands from your Grace upon that account or upon any other, they shall be faithfully observed. Your Grace will be pleased to return my Lord Conway's letter, for I have not yet made any answer thereunto.

Postscript.—I am now taking coach to Drogheda, and purpose to return upon Friday, where I may receive your Grace's commands if you have any for me.

LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNCIL TO MAYOR AND GOVERNOR
OF GALWAY.

1679, August 20.—After our hearty commendations, whereas by order of this Board of the 23rd of July last several inhabitants of the town of Galway (upon entering into recognizance in such manner as by the said order is directed and upon certificate of the Judge of Assize) were to be admitted to return to the said town and reside and follow their lawful occasions there, we now think fit hereby to require you forthwith to return unto us a particular list of the names of all the persons who upon certificate of the Judge of Assize are before your receipt hereof admitted, and have actually removed and settled themselves with their families in the said town; and we require you also for special reasons of His Majesty's service to take care that none of the said persons by the said order to be restored, but such as are so actually removed and settled with their families be admitted to return and reside in the said town pursuant to the said order, notwithstanding they have entered into such recognizance and obtained certificate from the said judge thereupon. And so we bid you heartily farewell from the Castle of Kilkenny the 20th day of August, 1679.

To our loving friends the Mayor and Governor of the Town of Galway These, your loving friends,

ORMOND,
JO. DUBLIN, GRANARD, LANESBOROUGH, HEN.
MIDENSIS, ROB. FITZGERALD, CA. DILLON, RO.
BOOTH, JON. DAVIS, JON. COLE, THEO. JONES,
MAU. EUSTACE.

EARL OF ANGLESEY to ORMOND.

1679, August 21, London.—If I am the first that importune your Grace in the behalf of pious and learned Dr. Fall, it will be a testimony that none have more regard than I to your Grace's honour and esteem in the world. It is rare enough for great and good men to come over from the Church of Rome to our Church. This reverend man, as I have heard some of our most eminent bishops say, is the greatest divine since the Archbishop of Spalato that hath not only become a proselyte of but appeared a champion for the Church of England, and written that in defence thereof which our adversaries never had the courage to attempt the answer to. But how it comes to pass I know not (if we be in earnest for our religion) that this learned man is so far from receiving the patronage he merits that he is rather by the artifices of some and lukewarmness of others discountenanced, '*nec facile emergit cuius virtutibus obstat res angusta domi*,' whilst he works in the fire against the enemies of the Church and to establish weak ones in the faith, he is weakly supported for his livelihood, who ought to have rather a redundancy, that his studies so usefully employed may receive no interruption.

Your Grace's noble predecessor, the Earl of Essex, did not only give him countenance, but laid the first foundation for his maintenance, which is nibbled at (as your Grace will find by the enclosed memorial) in your time. My first request in his behalf is that he may have your Grace's protection, and after that I refer to your Grace's consideration whether many dignities and preferments have not been filled since your Grace's going over, and whether any more learned and worthy than he have had them. I am not herein an unfriendly remembrancer to your Grace, and I am sure it will be very welcome news to your old friends the Bishop of Winchester and me and many others, that you think of him at last, and I know nothing your Grace can do that will give so general satisfaction or more recommend your Grace's zeal to the Church and care of the conversion of that poor superstitious people and advancement of religion in that nation than to see you prefer such of them as come into us and are subject to none of the scandals that some of their converts have been. If my motion succeed I shall rejoice in it, not only as being an instrument of good to a deserving person, but as having thereby testified my being, etc.

CHIEF JUSTICE KEATING to ORMOND.

1679, August 22, Cork.—Since our arrival at this place we received letters from the Earl of Orrery, whereof the enclosed is a copy, which I presume to send your Grace, as also the copy of a letter which we received from a gentleman in Limerick. That which induced me to give your Grace this trouble is that I am assured by divers in this place that Henaghan the person mentioned so often in the Earl of

Orrery's letter, had divers friends at Dublin who endeavour to procure his pardon.

Your Grace will find in one paragraph of the Earl of Orrery's letter that he tells us of Mr. Henaghan's travels in France, Holland and Flanders, and that he had told him divers things of consequence which he affirmeth to him he will make good; from whence I took occasion to write to his lordship praying his further advice and letting him know that if we proceeded against Henaghan and he be found guilty and executed, the King would be at a loss for evidence to make good the matters discovered unto his lordship, except his lordship had some other means of proof than that of Henaghan's own testimony. We are in this place hard put to it for jurors to do the service of the country, the inhabitants of the county being in great fear to lose their harvest by reason of the unseasonableness of the weather, which makes them keep close at home to watch all opportunities, and indeed the rains and storms here have been extraordinary. So that I fear we shall with great difficulty (if at all) get into Kerry.

[Encloses letter from the Earl of Orrery to the Judge of Assize, concerning the evidence of one Henaghan, who is stated to be able to give information of treasonable conspiracy connected with the Plot, and also giving information of the arrival of two Irish priests in Ireland, as follows]:—
 "I must also acquaint your lordships that he gave me advice of two Irish Popish priests who were to land in Kerry out of France, and who came fully instructed from their confederates at Paris, whose persons and papers if I could take would discover much. I had secretly watches in all the parts of Kerry to apprehend them at their landing. Henaghan gave me notice that they would come over habited like gentlemen. The one of them landed last June, and as soon as the ship came into the harbour my men went on board, but the master at last confessed that a gentleman that came over from France a passenger with him would be landed in a creek and not in the port, he saying that creek was much nearer to the place he was going unto than the Ventry was, and therefore the master landed him there, the weather being fair, and so we missed of taking him. The other priest is not yet landed that I hear of."

LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNCIL to HENRY COVENTRY,
 PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE.

1679, August 23, Kilkenny Castle.—Soon after the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant directed to me, the Lieutenant, His Majesty's service requiring a meeting of his Privy Council, I, the Lieutenant, acquainted them with that part of your said letter which gave me intimation of a malicious report raised that I should have written to the King these or the like expressions:—That upon the news of the rebellion in Scotland the Protestants in Ireland pricked up their ears,

but that upon their defeat they seemed much crestfallen. You further intimated that being spoken to of the said report, you answered that I had written no such thing to you, nor as you believed to the King, but that you would ask His Majesty whether I had or no, which you having accordingly done he was pleased thereupon not only to declare that I had written no words to that effect to him, but also to express his gracious opinion of me and acceptance of my endeavours in his service, for which just vindication and most gracious expressions of his favour and confidence in my fidelity I am most humbly thankful.

And we all presume upon this occasion with all humility to assure His Majesty that there was so little ground for that false and scandalous report that tho' the rebellion in Scotland was matter of great grief and trouble of mind to all His Majesty's good Protestant subjects of this kingdom, in that it might (tho' unjustly) bring some reproach upon the profession by the advantage that might be taken thereof by the Papists; yet (to our unspeakable comfort) we found that not only His Majesty's army but his militia and all the nobility, gentry, magistrates and commons professing the Protestant religion (except some very few inconsiderable persons of the Non-Conformists) were and we are confident will be ready with us to expose their lives and fortunes to all hazards for the maintenance and preservation of His Majesty's Royal person and Government against all rebellions and insurrections whatsoever, being thereto indispensably obliged not only in duty and loyalty and by the dictates of religion and conscience, but in gratitude and thankfulness for the many testimonies we have received of his great clemency towards his subjects and most gracious protection of them in the profession of the true Protestant religion, especially in these times when the adversaries thereof appear to have laid desperate designs for the utter subversion of it, and whatever may be suggested or suspected to the contrary in these days of too much liberty of speaking and writing or whatever may be hoped for by those that are enemies to His Majesty's Government and the true religion established in these kingdoms (who can only hope for success in their pernicious designs by divisions amongst us, which God avert) we are confident by the blessing of God that this kingdom will be preserved in peace and loyalty; and that it may be so maintained is the hearty prayer and shall be the faithful endeavours of us who account it our great happiness to be His Majesty's most dutiful subjects and most obedient servants. And so we remain from the castle of Kilkenny, the 23rd day of August, 1679.

[Signed], ORMOND,

JO. DUBLIN, ARRAN, GRANARD, LANESBOROUGH, HEN.
MIDENSIS, RO. FITZGERALD, CA. DILLON, ED.
BRABAZON, RO. BOOTH, JON. DAVYS, JOHN COLE,
THEO. JONES, THO. RADCLIFFE.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, August 24, Kilkenny Castle.—The Privy Council meeting here to consider what was fit to be done concerning the readmission or exclusion of some of the Popish inhabitants of Galway and some other things, I thought it might be convenient to acquaint them with the report you gave me notice of about the letter I am charged to have written to the King, which gives such offence and scandal on that side, and might do on this, if so false an imputation should meet with no contradiction. And tho' the Council would not affirm that I had wrote no such letter, yet what they have thought fit to say makes it very improbable I should have so little wit as to charge all the Protestants of this kingdom who only were armed and drawn together to suppress the Scotch rebellion (if need should be) with favour to it. I am sorry this letter you will receive herewith will not be so soon communicated to the Council of England as I think might be convenient; but if His Majesty shall think it may serve to any good use to have it made public you will easily find the way of doing it. I think it so necessary here that the Protestants should not believe they are falsely and maliciously represented by me that I have allowed as many of the Council as shall desire it to take copies of the letter, which is no ill way of publishing the contents of it.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, August 26, Kilkenny.—I have yours of the 17th from Windsor, and am glad you have missed the honour of conducting the ladies to Brussels; the Spanish journey is longer, but I think less dangerous, as you intend to make it. I would be glad to know when you begin it. You advise well that the addresses of the Parliament concerning Ireland should be considered. We are here upon them, and shall give the best account we can of them, the most difficult to come well out of for you and myself it is that relating to the guardianship of the children of Papists, wherein we are both bound in 10,000*l.* to see young Aylmer educated a Protestant, which has been neglected and the boy is in France, but I will do the best I can to have him suddenly brought over and then take order with him. For your son I am glad he is at Oxford, and desire he may continue there till the spring, by which time we shall see to what public affairs are like to turn. Sir Richard Stephens says my Lord of Shaftesbury at his own table spoke very favourably of me. I have seen some of the Scotch companies, and confess they have a more soldierly air than our men, and exercise better as I believe, but we must not disgust all the rest of the army as we should if we should give them to them as preceptors, and yet a way shall be found to bring them into the same forms. As to the substance, it is with very little variation the same with ours. You find how much easier it is to exercise a

regiment lying together than companies that lie thinly scattered all the kingdom over. It is not possible, but you must be mistaken when you say that the Prince of Orange his guards have but 15*d.* a day without any other help, unless they are composed of such men as keep themselves, for here the country troopers have about 15*d.* a day after their deductions, and yet if you reckon all that belongs to the keeping of a man, his horse and that it is very little he can save in this cheap country to provide for accidents, let him be as good a [obliterated] as is possible. I know not what rank was given the Scotch regiment in England, and so cannot tell what they should have here, the question is for the present at rest.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, August 26, Windsor.—I received this day your letters of the 13th and 18th of this month, which were partly answers to some of mine; as to the doing anything with my son, you may be sure I shall not so much as think of it without your approbation and knowledge. I will send Sir Charles Meredith your letter which concerns him, wherein he will see better your kindness and advice than by anything I can say. I here send you an account of His Majesty given me by Doctor Wetherly just now; it being near six in the evening, you may give credit to what he says. I hope the falsehoods spread abroad will not be believed in the place where you are; this relation being authentic, I thought it my duty to send that you may make use of it as well as for the satisfaction it will give you. I am glad you approve of my Spanish journey. I have neither time to write or indeed anything more to say at present,

HENRY THYNNE to ORMOND.

1679, August 26, Whitehall.—I am sorry I must disturb your Grace's repose in the country by the unwelcome news this will bring you of His Majesty's illness, who has been indisposed since Thursday last, occasioned (it's thought) by staying too late in the evening a-hawking after having played at tennis in the morning. It's now come to an intermitting fever whose fits return each other night (but thanks be to God) are now much abated, since His Majesty was let blood, which was yesterday, and has had the benefit of rest and sweats; so that now it's thought it may turn to a tertian ague, which tho' it may be of a longer continuance, yet is not accompanied with that danger which this year attend this kind of fever. I doubt not but your Grace will have a more exact account from my Lord Ossory who is now at Windsor, but yet I thought it my duty not to omit the giving your Grace the best account I can get at this distance.

Mr. Secretary is now at Windsor and has been there since Sunday last, to whom I have sent your Grace's letter by

the last post. I presume he will continue there till he sees His Majesty out of all danger, which God grant may be very speedily. His lodgings here are getting ready, for it's thought he will come hither as soon as he is able and may do it with safety.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, August 29, London.—I am now to answer your Grace's of the 12th, 17th and 18th instant, for which I had not time, as I told your Grace by Tuesday's packet. I have perused your Grace's letters to me, and I find answers to all the particulars of Sir Hen. Ingoldsby's objections, but that of powder and bullet being denied to the Guards in Dublin upon the first discovery of the Plot, and when I told him it was impossible there should be such a denial, and that if any such were wanting it was the negligence of the officer, he told me he had himself represented the defect to my Lord Arran, and had prevailed with some of the officers (whom he would not name) to make demand of powder and bullet, and yet neither his nor the officer's solicitation and importunity could then prevail.

As to my Lord Ranelagh's affair, I am fully convinced your Grace has put it into the best method it can be. And if your Grace will please to pardon my past impertinences and importunities upon that subject, I shall promise your Grace to trouble you no further in it. The right Sir Richard Stephens has done your Grace is this, when in the presence of my Lord Shaftesbury there were reflections endeavoured to be cast upon your Grace for the method was taken there to disarm the Papists by giving them so long a time to bring in their arms, and comparing it with the sudden disarming of the Protestants formerly upon Blood's &c, from which some inferred that this time was rather an indulgence to them to give them an opportunity of hiding their arms, Sir Richard then averred in your Grace's justification that your Grace propounded to the Council that the Papists should be without any intimation given of it generally disarmed throughout the kingdom, but that your Grace was overruled by the Council, which Sir Henry Ingoldsby then also confirmed. I humbly acknowledge your Grace's generosity in allowing my freedom, which I shall always exercise with that duty and respect is suitable to the obligation I have to your Grace. The charge against your Grace by some men here for labouring to disunite the Protestants in Ireland is grounded upon the reflections your Grace has made upon those whom you thought too inclinable to join with the late Scotch rebels, and is easy for your Grace to imagine out of what quiver this arrow is shot at you. Mr. Nettervilles's mentioning to your Grace that I would give you an account of the knight's discourse was upon some discourse he himself had with Sir Henry Ingoldsby, which he communicated to me. For I assure your Grace I make no other use

of him than in those circumstances your Grace proposes, and in them only and in my Lord Ranelagh's concerns do I treat with him.

As for the proposition I sent your Grace concerning the Revenue, it is an affair of that consequence that your Grace cannot hastily make a judgment of it, and therefore I do not press for your resolution in it. I was only a little impatient because you did not take notice of it, fearing my letter wherein it was mentioned had miscarried. And though your Grace has not sent me my Lord Chief Justice Keating's sense of it, I acquiesce entirely in your Grace's resolution. I do not hear that my Lord Ranelagh has left Windsor, nor do I believe he will [] who is now in a hopeful way of recovery, though very weak, yet having twice escaped his [*page torn*] well last night, is out of danger and in a condition to write those despatches of recommendation which he expects to carry with him. Mr. Oates has put in articles in the Council against my Lord Chief Justice Scroggs and Sir Philip Lloyd, and 'tis said he will in Parliament do the like against my Lord Privy Seal. It is also said Mr. Jennison has reflected much upon my Lord Privy Seal and my Lord Marquis of Worcester. I here enclosed send your Grace a letter from Sir Robert Howard in which is His Majesty's letter in favour of Mrs. Nelly's pension, to which I have undertaken your Grace will be propitious and obliging. Mr. N. tells me the Bailiff of Westminster is dying, and if your Grace be not pre-engaged to another, and the disposition of that place be not a considerable perquisite of your Stewardship of Westminster, your Grace's granting him that employment will be an establishment of his fortune and put him into a condition of being able to pay his gratitude to your Grace by all the services within his power, while he breathes. I have made an end of my affair with the East India Committee here, so that I hope by the time I mentioned in my former to have the honour of waiting upon your Grace in Dublin.

SIR ROBERT HOWARD to ORMOND.

1679, August 27, Exchequer.—Yesterday being at Windsor I received this enclosed for your Grace, and was desired by Mrs. Nelly to dispatch it to you, which I have done, by the favour of my Lord Longford. I did formerly presume to give your Grace notice that Mr. Mylius was very slow in his returns and pleaded at last the stop in Ireland, but of this I had no return from you, but I knew not anything of this till I received it yesterday. I doubt not but your Grace has daily accounts of the King's condition, but since I was with him I will not neglect my duty to you in giving you my observations. On Monday last I went to Windsor and found the King newly out of a fit of a fever, which had kept him fourteen hours. The original of his disease was looked upon

as the new fever and the mingle of a surfeit. Dr. Pichenson was alone with him when he fell ill, and the King confessing what he had eaten, which he supposed offended him, upon which the doctor ventured to give him a gentle purge of manna, which yet worked sixteen times and is thought to be the foundation of his recovery. After the rest of the doctors came and let him blood, and found it to be a tertian; after his fit he grew pretty well and had no ill symptoms, his sweating relieved him constantly at night. After his fit he grew very well composed and slept that night exceeding well, seven hours at a time. In the morning, being Tuesday, I was with him two hours and found him so well that it overjoyed us all. The doctors gave him the *decoctum amarum*, which in this new disease they find very effectual. We are in some doubts of his fit again.

I left off here because I doubted the Thursday night's post would not be for Ireland. On Thursday I returned to Windsor, where I found the King had a fit on Tuesday night, but lessened. The next time the King was very well without any the least symptoms of it; Wednesday he continued well and all Wednesday night; on Thursday I waited on him and found him continue so, and I left him yesterday being Friday in a perfect restored condition in all respects and circumstances; this morning at 12 I hear he continues so, and I find that both city and country were sensible how much depended on his well being. I hope it will make such an impression that all will tend to good and to a happy accomodation between the King and Parliament, which is not only the wishes but I hope will be the zealous endeavours of all good men. I believe the King has contributed much to his recovery by that extraordinary calm temper that he has shewed in all his sickness, and in those fits, which are of great pains and uneasiness, he never changed from that calmness that he had in health. I will not beg your pardon for giving your Grace this long narrative, since I am satisfied that though your Grace will receive as much as this better presented to you, yet the subject is so welcome to you that an honest repetition will not be unpleasant, and I can by an accident assure your Grace that at this time there is nothing will pass with your wise and kn'd master to your prejudice, which is an entire satisfaction to, etc.

Exchequer, Saturday, 30 Aug., 1679.—Mrs. Nelly has commanded me to present her faithful service to your Grace, and is assured, she says, of your kindness.

REV. PETER DRELCINCOURT TO REV. ———.

1679, August 30, Oxford.—After the assurance of my Lord James's good health, which I give you now as I did this day sevendnight, I think myself obliged to tell you (tho' with grief) that my lord of late is grown both very remiss in his studies and little observing of what I tell him for his good. He hath

in his head (either through his own arguing or through some idle and pernicious persons suggesting) that being born of such illustrious a family, and to such great estate as he is, and being not intended for a doctor, he needeth neither much learning neither a governor, being both old and wise enough to govern himself, and to do what he pleaseth, and in this humour he hath been about these three weeks, tho' two days since it is somewhat checked and altered through the frequent pain and industry of our good and worthy Dean, who continues to be extremely kind to and careful of his lordship.

Early rising is necessary for his lordship, both in respect of his studies and of his own temper inclining him to fatness, but of late also all the courting, the civil entreaties, the good words, patience and promises cannot get him out of his bed before eight the clock, and sometimes later. I do bear such tender respect for the noble and most illustrious family he belongeth to and such love and particular affection to his lordship's own person that I cannot (neither would I without a special leave) use any severity with him and that I must say he knoweth well. But certainly in this case I must crave leave to say that I know nothing so necessary and so convenient, nor which is like to be so effectual than their Graces taking notice of this in a letter to my Lord James and this which I have deferred till now to acquaint you with (in hope it would not last) I leave to you to impart as you shall think best. In the meanwhile, Reverend Sir, you may be assured with a perfect truth and sincerity that I write this merely in hope and desire that it may turn to my lord's own good, which in conscience and honour I am bound to procure by all possible means. For I cannot humour him in things which (however pleasing now to his lordship) will certainly turn to his great disadvantage (as some do), nor write that all is well and right when it is not, yet there is one favour which I must humbly beg, that this be not mentioned to his lordship as being come from me, but in general as heard from this place, for I should otherwise lose his lordship's goodwill for ever. I hope after that thro' God's blessing to see his lordship return to his former good humour and good train, yea, to see him redeem the time and double his diligence.

LOED BLAYNEY TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, August 30, Dublin.—I am just returned from Ringsend, where I saw our friend Antony take shipping, we had some brimmers at parting and often drunk your Lordship's health, who I hope will be as soon weary of the country as I was, or else this town will be unpleasant to everybody, for already 'tis as rare to get company as claret in London since the Act, and the grass of the bowling green is long enough to make hay for one's horses. All the diversions I can find is playing quoits with Joe Ashbury and long bullets

with your butler Harry. Yet there is one blessing attends all these misfortunes, the women have but Hobson's choice, they must make use of me or nobody. I could say a great deal more of the place but that I long to tell you how much I am, etc.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, August 30, Whitehall.—Your Grace's of the 18th instant I have received and was then at Windsor, but His Majesty was under so great an indisposition that there was no possible entertaining him with any business, and myself during my stay there fell into a very violent indisposition occasioned by a very great cold, so that I had much ado to get me removed to this town, where I am for the most part a prisoner to my bed threatened with the gout, but whether it will end in a formal fit of it I yet know not. I left His Majesty in a very fair way of recovery, if he miss his fit this night as he did on Thursday, at least but with a very little grumbling, our fears will be mightily allayed, which I will assure you were once very high. I have not yet seen my Lord Longford, nor by consequence your letter to him, when I do I shall give him the best advice I can in order to your service. A Privy Councillor told me at Windsor he had received a letter of four sheets of paper taking notice of that rumour of your Grace's having laid an imputation upon the English in Ireland as ill affected to the Government, and the letter was to vindicate the army in Ireland. I asked the Privy Councillor whether he had ever heard any such letter read at Council, he acknowledged no, nor any expression in any letter of yours derogatory to the reputation and loyalty of the English, much more the army in Ireland; but only you sent the copies of some intelligence sent you of some disaffections appearing amongst some of the Scotch in the north of Ireland, and of the number of them that continually flocked over thither. He acknowledged he never heard other. For myself I am ready to attest any way your Grace shall think it fitting that I never did receive, see or know of any such letter wrote, sent or read either in public or private from you, and that the King did absolutely deny the ever having received any such letter from you. I am under such an indisposition as maketh writing a very disagreeable exercise to me. I hope you have received His Majesty's letter under his own hand confirming the contents of mine, if not you must expect some time till he be in a condition of writing. This letter wrote to the Privy Councillor was from a great officer in the army, he told me.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, September 2, London.—Last night I received your Grace's of the 28th of August, and am sorry your Grace labours to convince me that you have done your utmost in the affair

of my Lord Ranelagh, as if your Grace imagined anything had stuck with me. I confess I have writ to your Grace with some warmth upon that subject, and I did so because I thought it my duty to represent to your Grace the sense of your friends here who think the prosecution of my Lord Ranelagh now your Grace has so fair scope for it, (which till now could never be obtained) a matter of the last importance to your quiet and settlement in the Government. And their concern for your Grace in that particular has made them apt to be alarmed upon every artificial report he has cast out here to support himself in his sinking condition. As for my own share, I am convinced that your Grace has taken the best method in it and have done all that is proper and fit hitherto. And that which is further to be done is to follow your blow by punctually and briskly pursuing the orders of the Council from hence. For he delays the coming to his accounts upon a belief that this Parliament will not sit long, and if his accounts be not ended before the Parliament shall be dissolved or prorogued, he will then hope to shake off all in the interval by his powerful interest at Court. Therefore your Grace has nothing more to do than to speed the dispatch of his accounts, and if he will delay his journey and not appear there to proceed to the declaring his accounts *ex parte* according to the latitude given you by the last Order of the Council. And this is Mr. Secretary's opinion as well as mine. My Lord Ranelagh was at Windsor late yesterday and gave it out that he intended to begin his journey, but most there were of opinion that he would not at least be gone till His Majesty were in a condition to write some despatches which he expects to carry with him. The King (God be thanked) is quite recovered of his fever, of which he has not now the least symptom remaining, but he is brought very low, being so weak that he can but crawl up and down his chamber; yet he looks very cheerfully, though thin. I am now going in some haste to Windsor to wait upon the Duke who arrived there late last night, and is gone to Windsor very early this morning. Mr. Secretary being ill of the gout has sent your Grace's and the Council's last letter of the 23rd of August to my Lord Ossory to shew it to the King and obtain his leave for printing it, which I believe will not be denied. As for the proposition concerning the Revenue, I made the same doubt to the proposer as to the practicability of it as your Grace has done, and therefore he offers if your Grace thinks it fit to repair to your Grace immediately for the removing any doubts that may stick with your Grace concerning it. And if he can clear the point it is all one whether it be set on foot before or after my Lord Ranelagh's accounts are determined as he affirms, for his chief drift and aim in it is to rout him. The enclosed print I have sent your Grace, that you may see with what industry your enemies endeavoured to reflect upon you in the account of Colonel Talbot's liberty, though they know he has it by Order of Council from hence.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1679, September 2, Windsor.—My Lord Ranelagh being now by the King's command going into Ireland to adjust the accounts of his late undertaking there, His Majesty directs me to recommend to your Grace the despatch of that business as soon as may be, and he would have you give him an exact information of the state of that kingdom and of the affairs of it by the said Earl when he returns hither.

EARL OF ANGLESEY to ORMOND.

1679, September 5, Blechington.—Knowing by long experience that your Grace delights to be attended by persons of good extraction and breeding, and finding Sir Charles Wolseley, your Grace's godson, and his lady ambitious to have one of their numerous family receive the honour of being in your service, I thought it my duty by this bearer, Cornet Wolseley, Sir Charles, his brother, to tender one of his sons to wait upon your Grace, which, if you accept, I shall take such care that he be sent over in an equipage fit to attend your Grace as soon as I receive your pleasure herein. If your Grace's family be full, I hope, having been bred a soldier, he may deserve a colours from your Grace which he will wait in Ireland for.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, September 6, Windsor.—I shall not fail to give you an account of my Spanish journey. I am not so engaged nor at all resolved to make it if I find not appointments both certain and sufficient. My Lord of Essex did assure me of his assistance in this matter. I am very glad that the late addresses of the Lords are now under your consideration, to give them satisfaction will conduce much to the King's service as well as your own advantage. The affair of young Aylmer will certainly be made use of both to yours and my prejudice, therefore all diligence ought to be used to bring him hither and afterwards to our religion. Whatever my Lord of Shaftesbury may say to Sir Richard Stephens I am of opinion that according to the course he steers he will endeavour to remove from posts of power all persons of your principles. However I think it prudent to receive civilly any expressions or overtures from him. I have formerly sent you the detail of the pay both of the guards and army of the Prince of Orange, if you please I shall again transmit it. I have had it from Sir Alexander Colear, who, I am sure, would not give me an imperfect account. Since troopers must be clothed I know no reason why they should not be contented to have them of the same sort and colour, so that in providing them they be not abused by their officers. The care you take and the method for having the foot well trained will be of infinite use. I do easily comprehend the difference and disadvantage of companies being scattered

and not regimented. I wish some inconsiderable pay in time of peace, if a Parliament in Ireland sits and gives supplies, may be settled upon field officers, and that regiments might at some time of the year be drawn together, otherwise you will find a great defect whenever they form a battalion. You will pardon me if upon this occasion I remind you of a company for myself, it being without example that any in my station should be without one. Last post I gave you an account of the Duke's arrival. I am informed that generally his coming is well taken, whether he returns or remains here is not as yet known. I believe you will, however think it necessary to compliment him upon this occasion. Mr. Fitzpatrick, that formerly was page to my Lord of Oxford and since a captain of foot, desired me to mind you of some hopes given him that you would make him lieutenant to the guard that Tom Fairfax commands.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, September 7, Blessinton.—I am humbly to acknowledge the honour of your Grace's of the 31st of the last and of the 2nd instant. It was very seasonable that I left Kilkenny when I did, for the same night I was attacked with a smart fit of the gout, which upon the first assault disabled me from the use of one of my feet, however, I thought myself concerned to put the business of the accounts as forward as I could, and as soon as Sir John Davys could be at Dublin to make up a committee, I writ to my Lord Chief Justice to hasten on the accounts, the copy of which letter I here enclosed send your Grace, with his lordship's return to me which I received this morning, which will give your Grace a perfect account of the present state of that affair. I have not had any time to keep a copy of my Lord Chief Justice's letter. I have at this instant received notice that my Lord Ranelagh landed this morning. I have yet heard nothing from his lordship, but I presume it will not be long before I shall. Your Grace shall have an account of anything that I shall learn that may be worth your knowledge. The last packet brings us the very joyful news of His Majesty's perfect recovery. I pray God in Heaven bless him with long life and a successful reign. It brought us likewise the surprising news of the arrival of his Royal Highness at London and from thence to Windsor. I am not to make any conjectures upon this unexpected adventure. I pray God direct His Majesty's counsels and bless your Grace and all yours.

ORMOND to BISHOP OF LIMERICK.

1679, September 7, Clonmel.—Something of the matter mentioned in your lordship's of the 6th instant I received from the Sheriff of that county whilst I was at Thomastown, and directed him to bring Mr. David Fitzgerald to me, my intention being not only to give him full assurance of his pardon,

but of all other fit encouragement to discover whatever he knew of any design against his Majesty or the peace of His kingdoms ; but in return to this direction I was yesterday informed by the Sheriff that Mr. Fitzgerald was under confinement, so that I ordered Ellis to write to the Sheriff to let Mr. Fitzgerald know that I desired he would give his information to my Lord Chief Justice Keating, who is not only the chief judge in that circuit, but a Privy Councillor and therefore very proper to receive an information of that nature, and this is all the direction I can yet give unless Mr Fitzgerald think it better to stay till he shall be delivered from his imprisonment, and then if he have any more to say than is set down in his letter to your lordship he shall be at large heard by, etc.

SAME to SAME.

1679, September 8, Clonmel.—I thank you for your care in sending me Mr. Fitzgerald's letter to you, he is now here with the Sheriff of that county, but returns to undergo his trial. When that is over I have directed how he shall be further disposed of, so that your lordship is like to receive no further trouble concerning him.

If your lordship has had time to finish the picture you took the pains to draw I shall shortly have an opportunity to send it to my daughter Candish, for whom it is intended. Pardon the liberty I take.*

INTERROGATIONS TO DAVID FITZGERALD.

1679, September 8, Clonmel.—Have you had any discourse with any of the persons engaged since the first breaking of the matter to you, when, with whom, and what was the discourse ?

Have you had any discourse with any of the said persons since the discovery of the plot against the King's life or before ? or have any of these persons told you of any rising of the Papists that would be in England or of any invasion intended of that kingdom ?

How were you to provide yourselves of arms and ammunition to be in readiness at the time that the invasion should be ? was there any money to be raised for that use or were there arms and ammunition expected from any foreign parts ? Declare your knowledge.

Was there any town or fort to be surprised before or at the time of the expected invasion, what town or fort, and by whom to be surprised ?

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, September 9, Blessinton.—I must humbly beg your Grace's pardon for the false alarm that I gave your Grace of

* Simon Digby, Bishop of Limerick 1678-9 to 1691-2 to 1720, is mentioned in Horace Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting* as "a good limner."

the Lord of Ranelagh's arrival. It was sent to me by a sober person, and from the mouths of Sir John Cole and Sir John Champante, who were then going to Ringsend to attend his lordship with their coaches; but whether this were out of design or by mistake I cannot say, for Dr. Topham now writes to me that my Lord Ranelagh neither is come nor designs to come, but that all his lordship's preparations for his journey hither have been only artifices to amuse us in the expectation of his coming, but not intended.

I send your Grace here enclosed a letter of Mr. Worth's from Cork about Lavallin. The man's flight doth not look very well, though it may be thus far excusable that most men will naturally keep themselves out of danger's way as far as they can. I have writ to Mr. Worth that he did very well in his inquiries after Lavallin and what became every good subject to do that was in his or the like employment. When I attended your Grace at Kilkenny I moved your Grace in the behalf of Mr. Synge for a living which would be resigned by one Mr. Davis; but by a letter which I yesterday received from the Bishop of Cork I find that his lordship hath a design to set up a quire in the Cathedral of Cork, for which that living would be very convenient and in some degree necessary. I am clearly of his lordship's opinion, for I formerly intended it for myself while I was Bishop of Cork, and since his lordship hath present purposes of erecting a quire there, it is my humble opinion that to so good and so public a work Mr. Synge's preferment should at present be postponed (who may be provided for hereafter, for as yet he is but a young man) and this living being without any cure but what is discharged by that Church of St. fin Barrys in Cork, it would be very convenient for that Quire; but care must be taken that in his warrant (if your Grace thinks fit to dispose it that way) the trust and use may be expressed for which it is put into the bishop's hands, otherwise it may perhaps be void, for as I suppose a commendam cannot be granted to any bishop without the King's letter for that purpose. I heartily pray for your Grace.

Postscript.—The name of the living is the Rectory of St. John's by Cork.

LORD JAMES BUTLER to ORMOND.

1679, September 9, Oxford.—I do heartily acknowledge my fault in not writing to your Grace so often as my duty engages me to do. But if your Grace will pardon this omission I promise to be more dutiful hereafter. In the meantime, having assured your Grace of my good health and of my endeavours to improve in my studies, I make bold to present an humble request to your Grace, which is that you would be pleased to give me leave to keep another horse. If your Grace grants me this favour it will be to me a further encouragement to perform my exercises with more diligence and cheerfulness

and by all possible means to strive to shew myself more and more, my Lord, your Grace's most humble and most obedient grandson, James Butler.

Postscript.—Pray my humble duty to my Grandmother.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, September 9, Whitehall.—Your Grace's of the 26th of August from Kilkenny I have received and acquainted His Majesty with it. I have given copies of it to my Lord Longford to distribute, but neither I nor any other of your friends that I know were for the opinion of printing it, the design of the dispersers of that rumour being more to dis-affect those under your government in Ireland than that they could make any great advantage here but by the clamours from thence. The arrival of His Royal Highness will be no news to you, but I believe we shall not for the present enjoy him long, but when the precise day of his remove will be I cannot yet tell you. We are in great hurly burly about our elections, and whether we shall agree better when we meet or no I know not. I have received your Grace's and the Council's letter about the imputations upon Colonel FitzPatrick, and shall not fail to acquaint the Council with it. His Majesty is, God be thanked, perfectly recovered and resolveth some time the next week for this town and thence to Newmarket. When I see the Lords Commissioners I shall speak about these reports, but I suppose if they are imperfect your Grace must represent to them the exceptions you have to them. I have not more to importune your Grace with.

DR. JO. TOPHAM to EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, September 9, Dublin.—I had by Sir John Davys the honour of your lordship's, and my great expectation of my Lord Ranelagh's arrival made me so rude as not to acknowledge it the post following. But after all there has been as much artifice used to persuade persons to believe he intended for Ireland as would make an excellent farce. He and his servants the very hour they left London writ Sir John Champante that that minute they designed for Ireland, the post following the two Lady Ranelaghs by their letters obliged Sir J. Ch. to take care of that noble person and to secure him from all bad company. Liveries are made and after all his lordship cannot leave Windsor, where he was the last packet, and was (as they say) resolved to stay for some days. In the meantime Roger Moore is very active, and his debt increases, which makes me believe he intends really to proceed. I cannot give your lordship the debt which is stated by the Commissioners, but it increases daily, and I will not fail the next post to give your lordship the true balance. Last night happened a fire in St. Thomas Street, consumed a stable and part of a malthouse and did no further mischief. There is great mourning at Bellamont for

the death of my Lady Parsons' father. Does your lordship know that Mr. Wicherley, the poet, was in this country. He landed about three weeks since and went aboard (I saw him) on Thursday last. He has been all the while in the country, but I cannot yet learn where nor what his business was.

REV. SAMUEL LADYMAN, Vicar of Clonmel, to ORMOND.

1679, September 12, Clonmel.—May it please your Grace to vouchsafe your pardon while I humbly present the enclosed instrument to be disposed of by your Grace and my Lord Bishop as yourselves think best. For although my own ignorance in concerns of that kind and the non arrival of my counsel hindered me the last night from subscribing my Lord Judge's draught, yet to prevent in everything your Grace's disappointment (now on your journey to Waterford) I have thus adventured out of his lordship's draught and out of that which myself a few days since had penned, sealed and delivered unto our present Mayor) to compile (and offer yet once again) what methinks any curate might conclude sufficient security, especially from him whose word alone can still be taken for more pounds than the double yearly value of this vicarage.

Nor may the term only of two years give any just distaste, since should I ever be so recovered as again to preach constantly myself (and who knoweth what God's blessing (and a release from heavier burthens than my sickness) may effect) it would then be very hard that I still should be obliged to give my assistant the whole revenue of this parish, the rather because my purse and my [*illegible*] and not without abundance of obloquy and ill will) purchased for it more than the two full thirds of all its income.

And since I have thus taken upon me to speak unto your Grace, let your Grace's wonted propensity (still so to mind the affairs of church and state as to forget your own) be my humble apology if I here am your remembrancer that their fixing the prison on part of Braye's building (besides the largeness of the street [and] its open air and vicinity to the now guard house) will be of greater moment (in the sequel) for this town's improvement than (at this time) your Grace may have leisure to read or I to mention.

For as (in my letter of January the 15, one thousand six hundred seventy three) I did humbly suggest unto your Grace (then at Whitehall) that the continuance of your Regality Courts where they then were kept would (by building the west suburbs soon have driven your Grace's town out at one of its own gates) will now in too great a measure be affected at the other end by erecting good houses without Kilsheelan Gate, where the situation is pleasant, the water near, and one good slate house already built and converted into an inn, which indeed must be somewhere

without the walls, but had been much better placed for your Grace's advantage on a piece of land of your own ancient estate lying just at the North Gate, where your Grace's Manor Courts were formerly held, entertainment now kept, and by one whose industry doth promise in some little time to build a better house.

Also never is Lough Street like to be improved (though the longest and best accomodated with gardens and back-sides of any street in this town) yet never like to be improved while the town's great thoroughfare is turned another way (even the little narrow street of Kilsheelan where only are three houses worth the notice). Yet next the better safety of all His Majesty's walléd towns (or a necessity that may not be unfitly pleaded for building a bastion or flanker in the room of Kilsheelan Gate, as a needful security for that weaker side of this garrison) there cannot be a more just pretence to make the North Gate the only passage this away into Clonmel than that the prisoners (when there placed must starve should it not be so.

But it is time, great Sir, that most humbly I do beseech your Grace's pardon for the rudeness and the interruption of this confused address which your wonted most noble candour I am assured cannot deny unto him who heartily doth pray in your Grace's behalf as he did for his best *Mæcenæ ut serus in cælum redeas diuque lætus intersis populo*, that being his only requital for all those undeserved and signal favours your lordship hath vouchsafed.

To the Most Honourable James, Lord Duke of Ormond, His Grace Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the most humble Address of Doctor Samuel Ladyman, Vicar of Clonmel.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, September 13.—This morning the Duke of Monmouth returned hither in order to settle his appointments. Before coming to the King he sent to desire permission. His Majesty answered that he had not forbid him the Court, but that he looked upon it as necessary that his command of the forces should be taken away, and that for some time he should absent himself from his dominions; the Duke is to go away, but not until the other obeys the same commands. You may imagine that whoever pretends to suffer upon the score of religion will not want friends. I am told that in the town great rancour and partiality does appear in this conjuncture. Wednesday next the Court removes to London and from thence to Newmarket. The time has not been proper to move anything concerning my Spanish journey: whether it will be proper for me to undertake or to desist, or when to be in it, depends upon accidents not to be foreseen, but whatever my resolutions shall be I will endeavour to give you soon notice of them, and hope for your approbation.

DR. JO. TOPHAM to EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, September 13, Dublin.—Contrary to all expectation, my Lord Ranelagh landed yesterday with Mr. Loftus ; intends to wait on my Lord Lieutenant next week. I have fully discoursed Roger Moore and find him triumphing, though before the victory. He has made me a perfect master of his notions, which I think are very clear and true. He has registered his debts, which is some thousands more than formerly, and assures me that the December pay (75), the deductions and endorsements amount to 37,000*l.* and more, which is already entered with the Commissioners. I am in daily expectation of Sir Ch. Meredith, and then I hope for leave from his Grace to pay my duty at Kilkenny, when I shall be able to demonstrate as clear as the sun that after all defalcations my Lord R.'s debts must be above 60,000*l.*, I mean allowing his last demands. Alderman Jervis presented your lordship's order to me to examine a difference betwixt him and Lieutenant Farley, which had been readily obeyed, but that the lieutenant had broke his leg, and so would not trouble presently ; several accidents of that kind have lately happened here, the scaffolding at the new tennis court having lamed four, and most of them will die by the mischance of the fall.

I would not trouble his Grace with a letter this post, tho' our Farmers have neither assigned nor paid one farthing of June pay to the army or regiment ; it is very late with the pay, the next three months being so near at hand. I could wish they had a reprimand, it would not be amiss ; but how they will satisfy the arrear is past finding out. Your lordship may see Sir John Champante's balance of the last month with my Lord Lieutenant.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, September 13, Dublin.—I lately gave your Grace the trouble of a false alarm about my Lord Ranelagh's arrival (for which I have presumed to beg your Grace's pardon) but he is now come in earnest, and with him Mr. Loftus. They landed yesterday in the evening. His lordship was pleased to visit me this morning and pretends to desire nothing more than a despatch of his accounts. He complains much of the agreement between Sir James Hayes and Sir James Shaen ; he saith he doth not understand it and disowns having any concern therein. We have appointed a meeting of the Commissioners for the accounts upon Monday morning, that if his lordship and partners hath anything to say to us it may not in excuse of their delay be objected, that the Commissioners did not meet. I find that his lordship intends to attend your Grace this next week at Kilkenny.

I here enclose to your Grace Mr. Maxwell's letter, it was without a date, but the receipt is endorsed. It is writ in such general terms that I have sent to him to be particular in his instances. Your Grace will find that we are quit of

that suspected person Mr. Campbell. The testimony which Mr. Maxwell hints at in his letter is, as I suppose, that which was proffered to your Grace by my Lord Granard in the behalf of the Presbyterian Ministers in the north, which it seems they cannot now agree upon, and which I am sure was less, much less for the security of the Government than Peter Walsh's Remonstrance, which was subscribed by a great part of the Romish nobility and gentry in this kingdom.

Wilson's refusal to exchange the brass halfpence that have gone in his name have made a great hurley-burley in this city, especially amongst the poor retailers. I doubt he will prove a knave, for I am informed since my coming to town that it will be proved that he hath lent his tools and instruments for coinage unto another person to counterfeit the halfpence that were made by Tennant and allowed by the Government. This is part confessed already by the person himself who made use of them for that purpose, but inquiry will be fully made into that matter against your Grace comes to town, and I presume upon the whole matter your Grace will think it necessary to establish some way for small money, that the poor traders may not be surprised by beggary by such abominable cheats before they do expect it.

I came hither upon Thursday last and my return to Blessinton is very uncertain, because it depends upon my daughter Blessinton's delivery, so that your Grace may direct your commands, if you have any for me, unto this place. I heartily pray for your Grace's health and happiness. The strangest news that I meet here at Dublin is a confident report that old Mrs. Fernely is married unto one Captain Desborough, and being demanded about it by some friends, she makes this answer that he is so handsome a gentleman that it is very hard for any woman to refuse him.

EARL OF ORRERY TO PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, September 16, Castlemartyr.—I am unable to acknowledge the honour of your Grace's letter of the 13th with my own hand, God having been pleased on Friday last to visit me with a violent fit of the gout, a great cold, and a stoppage of urine, from the last of which by His mercy I am freed. I here present your Grace the copy of a letter, the original whereof I had by an express from my son Broghill from Limerick. I have written to Mr. David Fitzgerald, the writer of the letter, who married Lieutenant Colonel Eaton's wife's daughter, at least to send me word who those magistrates were to whom he gave notice of the Plot, that they might acquaint my Lord Lieutenant and me with it. that I may immediately have them questioned for their great negligence or worse in not giving me the least notice thereof. I have not yet heard one word from my Lord Lieutenant concerning this affair, tho' Mr. Fitzgerald were about it with his Grace. My son assures me that the said Mr. Fitzgerald positively

tells him that the design is still on foot against the city and the King's castle of Limerick, and therefore methinks the speedier care should be had for the purging of that town. I have written so often about it that I doubt I may be judged troublesome in doing it, but sure this fresh alarm should make us look speedily and effectually about it.

I am very glad my Lord Ranelagh is safely come over. I hope now he is here he will justify and clear his accounts.

I rejoice very much that your Grace's alarm of the gout is proved a false one. I beseech God preserve you from it and all other evils.

I humbly beg the favour of your Grace that you will order my cousin, Richard Boyle, of Shannon Park, to be put into the Commission of the Peace for this county, and my cousin, Will. Supple, of Ahadda, to be put in for the counties of Cork and Waterford.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, September 16, Dublin.—The Commissioners for the accounts met yesterday, and the Lord Ranelagh and his partners appeared, and desired a week's time longer to bring in their answer to those objections which have been made to their accounts in regard the Lord of Ranelagh is but now come over, and it will be necessary to advise with his lordship before they put in their return, and his lordship intending to wait upon your Grace at Kilkenny they could be sooner ready, which was accordingly granted them, and the rather because it is hoped that by that time we may have some prospect of Sir Joshua Allen's Commission.

Since we met upon the Commission I received the enclosed from my Lord Longford. It is much to the same purpose which was formerly said by Captain Stone; however, I hold myself obliged to represent it to your Grace without any observations of my own upon it, being wholly at your Grace's government in this affair and in everything else. It may perhaps be seasonable to inspect farther into this new account when the Lord Ranelagh and partners bring in their answer, and then to make the best use we can of both accounts for His Majesty's service; but in the meantime it looks a little strange that Mr. Stepney hath not yet presented that new account to your Grace according to his direction from his partners. I think it would not be amiss if your Grace would call for it, that it may be considered before that time.

The enclosed paper is a copy of what was sent to the Provost of the College of another philosopher's lecture in the north, besides that whereof I formerly gave your Grace some advertisement. These Presbyterians it seems begin now to follow the methods and ways for discipline of their brethren the Jesuits. If some seasonable stop be not put unto these things I doubt they will grow much upon us in this kingdom to the prejudice as well of the civil as of the ecclesiastical government.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, September 17, Kilkenny.—I received yours of the 13th at Waterford and came from thence hither but yesterday. With your Grace's I had one of the same date from my Lord of Ranelagh giving me notice of his purpose to be here in the middle of this week, which makes me conclude that being away any return from me will miss him. I am told that his lordship since his landing threatens that those who have complained of want of payment shall be last paid. I wish it be made good and that they will be paid one time or other.

My Lord of Orrery sent me copies of all the examinations taken concerning Lavallin, of which Mr. Recorder Worth's to your Grace gives the full substance. I know not what can be done more in that matter. Mr. Maxwell is, as your Grace observes, too general in his information. If we could be certain who are come hither that were in the Scotch rebellion they might be secured till it should be known whether they are of the number of the pardoned or of the proscribed; and if the Nonconformists in Scotland were in the posture he mentions, methinks we should hear of it out of England.

I send your Grace the extract of a letter I had out of England the week before the last. You will easily guess what great officer of the army is most like to write four sheets of paper upon such a subject. I believe he thought I had really written such a letter as was falsely laid to my charge, and that he had found a fit occasion to display his eloquence, court the army, and in a civil way to do my business here and in England. I propose to stay here about three weeks longer, but if anything relating to the public shall require my going sooner I am ready for the journey.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, September 18, Whitehall.—I am by this to acknowledge the receipt of one from your Grace of the 8th instant, for which I most humbly thank you, and I shall give you what account I can both of that and your former of the 4th, which I acknowledged in my last. As to the last of the 8th, though His Majesty believeth as your Grace, and indeed the Minister seemed to fear that it is but chimæra or a trepan: yet he approveth the course you have taken to find out the truth quietly without making a great noise to no effect, as the sending for Rutherford upon that single witness which a man of that character would easily invalidate by a base denial, the fact being treasonable; but if there could be more witnesses than the condition would be altered and the dependance he would have on His Majesty's mercy for life and estate would with much more probability extract from him what the design is at bottom, for if anything of what the godly minister alleges be true, *rebus sic stantibus*, I should suppose

the present design was only to test the pulse of the Ministers, and if they would relish such a proposition from France, they would *a fortiori* from others that they should have reason to think better affected, and if they discovered a thorough averseness to any such proposition, the reproach of the temptation to lie upon France, and those that possibly were really in the design not to be mentioned. But without undertaking at all to answer how little or how much France will do in point of interest, I do not at all conceive it their business during the present conjuncture to engage in such an interest.

But as to what you mention in both your letters, the great increase of those Nonconformists in those parts, His Majesty agreeth with your Grace not to exercise an over-hasty severity upon so great a multitude, but in case they shall come to such overt acts of rebellion as your Grace mentioneth, as setting upon the covenant or publicly avowing a separate jurisdiction, what your Grace adviseth upon that matter is approved of. In the meantime as your Grace seemeth to apprehend the recruits coming from Scotland into Ireland, so my Lord Duke Lauderdale seemeth to apprehend something from Ireland in Scotland; it appeareth from both your conjectures and apprehensions that there is a correspondence betwixt the sectaries in the north of Scotland and Ireland which ought carefully to be regarded; and, therefore, His Majesty hath commanded me to write to your Grace that you would keep a constant correspondence with the Duke of Lauderdale, who His Majesty will take care shall have orders to do the same with your Grace, that their motions may the better be observed in both nations. In the meantime His Majesty hath sent the same instructions to your Grace that were sent to my Lord of Essex some two years since, that my Lord of Granard may be sent with a body of men into the north. The number and places to quarter in will be expressed in the instructions which I hope to get signed to send with this letter.

I cannot answer particularly to all the points in your letter of the 4th instant; but as to that of the army, my Lord Treasurer saith the money is already gone, though here as well as there there are different opinions of the rate the army payeth for the three months' advance, and from those differences some reflections are raised upon the excessiveness of the demands of those that made the first offer of that way of advance, but His Majesty and my Lord Treasurer seem very well satisfied in the bargain as it now is. Concerning the calling a Parliament, it hath not yet been debated, and I believe hardly will till the King's return from Newmarket, whither he goeth the next Monday, and there he thinks he shall see the Prince of Orange. My Lord Ossory hath had a fever, but is well recovered.

As to the allowance for my Lord Granard's table, and all other extraordinary expense relating to this march of the troops,

His Majesty would have them provided in the same manner as they were upon the same occasion in my Lord of Essex his time. This is all I have at present to acquaint your Grace.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, Sept. 18th, Kilkenny.—I have received yours of the 16th and am told this will find you at Blessinton. I had a letter to the same effect from my Lord Longford with that he sent your Grace, whereby all I can collect is that there is a difference betwixt the English and the Irish undertakers concerning the 24,000*l.* borrowed of the King. In all other things they seem to agree. Those in England would not be charged with it, saying it was neither borrowed or employed for the ends of the undertaking: the other I suppose affirm the contrary. Which are in the right is not for ought I see material to the King, only his security is the better if they prove all to be liable. As I told your Grace yesterday I am ready for Dublin at twenty-four hours' warning, but am content to stay here till my presence there may be useful.

I am glad the Provost inquires after the Scotch Academies. It concerns this university, and they may very reasonably take notice and complain of such an invasion by some address which may be so drawn and enlarged as to fit the present conjuncture and prove of great use to the church, which I hope will find many friends in both Houses of Parliament. I cannot find any address from either House concerning the putting of Papists out of towns and garrisons, and yet it is in my head there was some such. I have sent to make search in the journals in England, but if there was any such methinks it might be found at Dublin. I wish your Grace would desire Dr. Topham or any other to make search among the booksellers and coffee houses, where such things possibly may be kept. I keep all your Grace's papers to be given you when we meet.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 20, Whitehall.—Your Grace will receive a letter from me this post concerning the letter from your Grace and the Council about the accusation of Colonel Fitzpatrick. Sir Robert Southwell will acquaint your Grace of some expressions made, though not at the Council, upon that business that looked very odd. The letter concerning the false reports of your Grace in relation to the Protestants of Ireland, I have given copies of to my Lord Longford, and shall to others of your friends, but did not think it necessary to produce it in Council, for reasons my Lord Longford may better tell you than I.

My Lord of Essex telleth me this night that he hath by this post received a letter from my Lord of Orrery mentioning the report of a master of a ship coming from France

that a ship were ready to sail for Cork from thence that brought 6,000 horse arms, and that he had given orders for the seizing of them if they came. If the intelligence be true, I wish he had acquainted your Grace first with it that the notice might here come from you.

The King is here and intending for Newmarket in very good health, but the day for his going is not yet fixed, nor I believe will be till both the Dukes go.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 20, Whitehall.—The discourse of this place is that next week the Duke returns for Flanders, but the Duke of Monmouth first leaves this kingdom. Soon after it is said the King goes to Newmarket. You know his custom is to advertise very late his officers when he makes such journeys. The Dukes of Monmouth and Lauderdale are taking out their pardons. I leave it to your consideration whether you ought to follow that example. You may be sure that those who wish ill to the Government will endeavour all they can against you; the doing the same thing may perhaps shew something of fear which will embolden your enemies on the other side. I know not in point of quartering, which has been the custom of almost all your predecessors, how liable you may be to the law upon your first accession to the Government after the King's restoration. The articles of the last Lord of Meath and everything of that nature ought to be inspected to guide you the better in this particular; probably they may have so many things on their hands, as that you may not this session whether short or long be troubled.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 20, Blessinton.—I have the honour of your Grace's of the 17th instant. I presume the Lord Ranelagh hath been with your Grace before this can come to your hands. I heard nothing of what was writ to your Grace, that he should say that those who complained most should be paid last. He hath I suppose too much skill to expose himself so lavishly considering the circumstances of his affairs.

It is easy to guess at the author of the long letter into England, but it is difficult to imagine any other reason for it but that he was willing to take any opportunity even from misinformation itself to expatiate upon his own zeal and diligence, for the untruth being detected it cannot have the least reflection upon your Grace; but it is the delight of the times to infuse jealousies, they are soon raised and easily credited.

Your Grace will pardon me that I refer you to the enclosed from Dr. Topham for the news at Dublin. If his intelligence be true it is high time for those of other principles to strike off.

I doubt our good friend my Lord Longford hath been most contributing to the later part of his news, if it be so. Your Grace may be pleased if you think fit to return me my Lord of Orrery's and Dr. Topham's letters.

Endorsed: "Received and answered 21 Sept. 1679."

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 20, Whitehall.—I received a letter from your Grace and the Council of Ireland dated from Kilkenny Castle the 26th day of August last concerning an information of one Darby Costigan against Colonel John Fitzpatrick, which letter I had no opportunity to produce in Council till yesterday, at which time it was ordered by the Council that I should write to your Grace to commit the said Colonel John Fitzpatrick to prison if he be in Ireland; if not that you would cause him to be indicted of high treason upon the evidence against him; and if the said Colonel Fitzpatrick appear not to the indictment you are to give order to have him outlawed. And your Grace is to give an account of your proceedings hereupon as soon as may be. I do also send here enclosed an authentic copy of the Order of Council in this behalf.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1679, Sept. 21, Kilkenny.—I return you my Lord of Orrery's and Dr. Topham's letters, but believe very little of either. I have had discourse with the Fitzgerald mentioned and have his informations signed by him, but not sworn as yet. He promised me to be shortly with me here and tell me more particulars; he does not tell me that he has any other testimony to confirm his. However nothing that comes under the notion of a discovery shall want due encouragement. I do not propose to be at Dublin till the 2nd of the next month, perhaps by that time I shall have seen Mr. Fitzgerald and send or bring him thither. I shall also defer the consideration of purging Limerick, and do not doubt but that in the meantime it will be safe enough.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, September 23.—Since my last I am informed that an impeachment is to be delivered against you at the meeting of the Parliament; and I am promised the particulars and notice of these proceedings from a man of quality. You may be sure that I am not wanting in point of diligence, and on the other side I endeavour not to make appear my timorousness, but according to my small talent do govern myself between these two extremes. My Spanish journey is resolved, and I am promised money to support it; but upon that account shall not omit anything by delaying or relinquishing it, if I think I may thereby be useful unto you.

The Duke of Monmouth goes away tomorrow, being Wednesday. The next day the Duke embarks for Flanders, and on Friday the King and Queen goes to Newmarket. My wife has had a great defluxion upon one of her eyes. All the rest of your family are well. I have not anything to trouble my mother withal.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, September 23, Whitehall.—I have very little to trouble your Grace with but what you will have from several hands. Our two Dukes, His Royal Highness and the Duke of Monmouth, both go beyond the seas immediately, the last tomorrow, the former on Thursday, and on Friday His Majesty intendeth for Newmarket. On the 30th of August I wrote your Grace a letter with one enclosed, to be (after your report upon it) signed by the King, in favour of the present Lord Mayor, who hath eminently served the King, and His Majesty this very day enquired of me why it is not despatched. I pray my lord be pleased to send your answer with all possible speed, if it be not already done. It is of concern in this present crisis, and I pray let there be no delay in it. To avoid the precedent of signing letters without your knowing of it I have withstood many shocks in this business, and I find His Majesty very pressing in it, and he hath some reason to be civil to this Lord Mayor: I pray God the next may deserve well of him.

EARL OF ESSEX to ORMOND.

1679, September 23, London.—There is an affair which concerns Sir James Edwards, the present Lord Mayor of London, which now stands referred to your Grace. It is for satisfaction of an adventure he has a right to. This gentleman having carried himself with great respect and loyalty toward His Majesty, the King desires much that he should have his satisfaction with all the despatch and favour that can justly be given him; which occasions me to give your Grace this trouble on his behalf, being a witness of his merit on several emergencies that have lately happened. Therefore if your Grace shall be pleased to return your approbation to his claim, I will take care to pass it at the Treasury here.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 23, Blessinton.—I have the honour of your Grace's of the 18th inst., and I shall make the best inquiry I can to find out the address for putting papists out of towns and garrisons. I well remember such a thing, and I presume I shall be able to retrieve a copy of it at my being at Dublin, which I intend (if it please God) upon Thursday next, having been a week here longer than I intended by the unpreparedness

of my house there. The want of packets leaves us under a great uncertainty of news out of England. The same continues with us yet, of which I gave your Grace an account in my last.

I understand by a letter received this post from Derry that the Bishop* continues very ill, with very little expectation of recovery, or that he will hold out above one month longer. I presume your Grace have not forgot to write to Mr. Secretary Coventry about him, to prevent the applications for his successor; for his long distemper might possibly give opportunity to some there to beg his grant or promise of it before the man dies. Clergymen are not altogether free from such indecencies. I have not heard one word from my Lord Ranelagh since his return from Kilkenny.

ORMOND to SIR CYRIL WYCHE.

1679, Sept. 26, Dublin.—I know not how the loss this kingdom may receive in the [retirement] of my lord of Essex from the place he held in the affairs of the Treasury could be better supplied than by Sir Stephen Fox having a seat there. Upon occasion whereof I have written to him by this post, and desired him that he would, when he shall be settled in the employment, allow you some opportunity to discourse with him concerning the affairs of this kingdom as they may relate to the Treasury of England. And some mention I have made of that sum detained somewhere from the service of Ireland out of the money advanced by the present Farmers, and of which I desired you to make inquiry. He is like himself to have some knowledge of it, having, if I mistake not, about the time of the mislaying of that money, had commerce with, or at least good information of the proceedings of all that had to do with public monies. You will when you find it seasonable speak with him on this subject, and it comes into my mind that Sir Robert Southwell may be a good adviser and assistant, because he is so in all things that concern Ireland, and he has particular reason to wish well to the finishing of the fort of Kinsale. To both of them I desire you to show the papers I sent you, or if they desire it to give them transcripts of them.

ORMOND to LORD JAMES BUTLER.

1679, Sept. 27, Kilkenny.—James, I was more glad to receive yours of the 9th than you will be with mine of the 20th of this month, and should be gladder if I were sure it were of your own dictating and that you did not send it to prevent just complaints of your miscarriage. However, if you will keep yourself to your promise and that I receive assurance of your performance you shall not want any encouragement or satisfaction that is fit for you. I am well

* Dr. Robert Mossom, Bishop of Derry 1666-1679, died Dec. 21, 1679.

content you should keep another horse, and will be glad to hear you make often use of him, and of any other exercise that shall be allowed by my lord bishop, and at such times as he shall permit. I am much troubled to hear that you grow fatter than is agreeable with your age, and much more that it should be imputed to your laziness and long lying abed—the thing in the world the most abhorred by me, having never seen any youth so addicted ever come to any good.

I am further to warn you that if anybody shall go about to flatter you with your parts, birth or fortune, that you look upon them as your greatest enemies, and that you still remember that though you may be above some in these things, yet there are many that are your equals, and many more that are above you; and that if there were not, yet all those qualifications are but trappings that will the more expose you to contempt, unless you fit yourself to them by civility, humanity and affability to all sorts of people, according to their degrees and merit. Consider these things, and what else you shall be taught; and let me at all times know your desires, and you shall find me ready to satisfy you in all reasonable things

Your affectionate grandfather,
ORMOND.

HENRY COVENTRY TO ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 27, Whitehall.—I am commanded by the King in Council to send your Grace a form of a Commission to depute some lords of the Upper House to swear the Parliament men upon the meeting of the Parliament. The thing requireth expedition, and therefore I beseech your Grace to return it with all haste. The Parliament will be prorogued till the 30th of October.

ORMOND TO EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1679, Sept. 27, Kilkenny.—I send you the copy of an Order of Council concerning Col. Fitzpatrick which I received but last night, as you may find by the date. The manner of proceeding may, for aught I know, be legal; yet I have not observed that the like is taken with fugitives in England. Such I call those that being accused have evaded since they were so. But he went out of the kingdom before any accusation was brought against him. Other differences there are betwixt his treatment and others. However, I have sent order to my Lord Chief Justice to proceed as the order directs, adding only these words “and according to the course of law and justice,” at which I hope no exception will be taken. I might have kept the Order and given no direction upon it till my being at Dublin, but I thought it better to lose no time, the Lords expecting a speedy return of it.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1679, Sept. 27, Dublin.—Though I presume your Grace has received a much better account than I can send you of the late occurrents in England, yet I thought it not amiss to trouble your Grace with the enclosed, for variety's sake and to compare notes: wherein your Grace will find something for your diversion, but much more for your wonder. I shall make no descant upon the particulars, but I hope I may, without offence, pray to God that He would continue us right in our wits, that we perish not for want of understanding; lest we suffer under the same reproach that David said of Abner—*We die as fools die*.

The Lord Ranelagh's business is appointed the first of the next month, which I shall not fail to attend that I may give your Grace the best account thereof that I can. I cannot but suppose from the earnestness of my Lord Longford's letter that there are some considerable persons in London who have a severe eye upon the proceedings in that matter, though not for the advantage of this Government or Governor, yet to take a rise from thence for reflection and quarrel. I am heartily glad that your Grace had some thoughts of returning hither some time this next week, which you are pleased to intimate in your Grace's of the 21st inst., which I received at Blessinton the 23rd in the afternoon.

My Lord Mountrath and his lady are not yet come over. They have been at Holyhead this week, but they want a little courage to adventure upon the Irish seas this blustering weather, and truly they say that the dogger was very near losing by the tempestuous storms. My daughter Blessinton hath been very ill, but I thank God she begins this day to be somewhat better. My Lord of Orrery continues so ill that he is not able to write letters or his name.

I cannot retrieve either at Council Table or anywhere else the address for expelling the Irish out of our garrisons; but if any such hath been I am promised to have it procured for me within these two days. But I now begin to think that there never were any such sent to your Grace; but that it was taken up upon the authority of the newsletters.

REV. PETER DRELINCOUET to ORMOND.

1679, Octobre 2, à Oxford.—J'ay reçu la lettre dont il a pleu à vôtre grandeur de m'honorer du 20^e du passé, avec la copie de celle pour mon cher seigneur à qui je rendis moy-même l'original. Cette excellente lettre monseigneur qui luy étoit fort nécessaire a déjà à peu près produit l'effet que vôtre grandeur s'étoit promise. Mylord en est devenu et plus studieux et plus traitable; et j'espere, monseigneur, avec l'ayde de Dieu, qu'en peu de temps la raison, le bon naturel et les belles promesses de mylord, les remontrances et les bons avis de M^r notre excellent Doyen; les soins et l'affection de son tuteur et de moy, amèneront cette bonne

œuvre à sa perfection avec quelque reformation dans notre petite famille. C'est le sentiment de M^r notre bon évêque par les avis salutaires duquel je me conduis en tout ce qui regarde le précieux dépôt qui m'est commis.

Puisque votre grandeur me commande de luy écrire librement ce que je say des mauvais conseillers de mylord, je lui diray sincerement que pour ses compagnons je ne puis pas en donner aucun jugement positif, faisant mon affaire d'empêcher mylord de frequenter aucune mauvaise compagnie. Pour les serviteurs j'en crois M^r Gandy incapable, mais je suis bien marry de ne pouvoir pas dire la même chose du jeune homme qu'on lui a donné pour serviteur dans le College. Il y a du temps monseigneur qu'il seroit tellement entesté du desir de voyager bientot avec mylord, qu'il l'en entretenoit continuellement à son léver et à son coucher et en d'autres temps aussy bien que de quantité de sottises avec une familiarité insupportable meslée d'un dégoût d'étude qu'il inspiroit insensiblement à mylord. Ayant voulu rémedier à ce grand désordre, et ayant prié doucement le dit jeune homme de n'être point si fort assidu ni familier avec son jeune seigneur qui a assez d'autre gents pour le servir soir et matin dans sa chambre il s'est coléré contre moy il a méprisé mes prières pris plaisir de faire pis, exhorté mylord à me mépriser et à ne me dire jamais *je vous prie*, mais *je veus*, M^r nôtre bon Doyen qui en a été informé a trouvé a propos de l'envoyer. M^r Gandy même qui est l'amy du jeune homme dit qu'il est nécessaire. Le Colonel Vernon, parent du dit jeune homme, vint hier icy, il promet de le retirer dans quelque temps. Cependant il est offensé de ce que je trouve à redire à son neveu, et son déplaisir contre moy le pourra porter à faire des efforts pour me rendre de mauvais offices. Mais je veus faire mon devoir envers mylord quelque chose qui en puisse arriver. Voilà monseigneur l'état present et véritable de mylord James, et de nos petites affaires. Je demande mille pardons à vôtre grandeur de l'en avoir entretenue si longtemps et de si mauvaise grace. Mylord ne manquera pas à la première poste de demander pardon à Madame la Duchesse.*

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1679, October 2, Oxford.—I perceive you have lately taken notice of some miscarriage in the conduct of my Lord James, and know not whether I may not seem negligent in forbearing to advertise your Excellence of what happens amiss in this place. But I have so much consideration of your time and occasions, as not to think it reasonable to give you trouble upon every little accident; especially when I know that in the conduct of youth the interposition of parents is always to be reserved as the last remedy: and thanks be to God nothing of that nature has appeared here. By the grace

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

of God when anything shall happen worthy your notice I will not fail to communicate it. As to what is passed, the truth is here was an idle lad recommended to be with my young lord as a servitor, who had entertained hopes of travelling with him, and filled his head so much with these expectations that he became impatient of his own attendances upon study, and consequently my lord's. And unto him rather than my lord may be imputed what has been amiss. But he being taken off 'tis to be hoped the inconvenience will immediately cease, and that the remaining part of my lord's attendants will take warning not to think of ingratiating themselves by flatteries, but to approve themselves to your Excellence by faithful duty.

JOHN FFOLLIOTT to EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, October 3, Cork.—Having some reason to believe your lordship may not be fully informed of the great indisposition of health my Lord of Orrery is now in, makes me presume to tell your lordship he is in a very desperate condition, although 'tis given out he is not so ill. But I have information from one very near him that 'tis next to a miracle if his lordship lives a fortnight. 'Tis not the gout, but a sudden violent decay in nature. Nothing they give him continues in his stomach, and he is hugely lethargic. If the knowledge of our Major General's deadly (I fear) distemper may be anyway serviceable to your lordship, I have my end.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 5, Newmarket.—At the time that you will receive this letter I doubt not but you will receive orders for dismissing from the Council Sir Henry Ingoldsby. This morning the King commanded me to inform Mr. Secretary that it was his pleasure that in his name he should signify so much to you. I suppose that both Mr. Secretary and you will not require any other signification. If in point of form more is necessary, I will endeavour to procure it. You know who is that gentleman's patron, and if the thing be not despatched, perhaps powerful endeavours may be used to alter His Majesty's mind.

I have it for certain that the King has sent to have the Duke and Duchess to come to either Dover or Margate, and at present it is ordered that they shall go into Scotland. The Duke of Monmouth is to remain abroad. I beseech you to keep secret this information. I am also told that my lord of Shaftesbury and others may be again put out of the Council. I do neither decline nor pursue my Spanish journey. As yet I am free, and shall for the future take that resolution which the advice of my friends and my own judgment shall dictate to me to be best.

SAME to SAME.

1679, October 6, Newmarket.—The King leaves the affair of the choosing bishops to you. In case the diocese of Kilkenny become void, if you have not fixed upon a person already, I presume to recommend Dr. Young, who was my chaplain in Flanders. He is an Oxford man, eminent in preaching and for a good life. I believe you would receive all manner of satisfaction in him, both as to the public and your own content. When I know your pleasure I shall accordingly govern myself. I am just taking coach for Euston, where I wish the hawks out of Ireland were come.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, October 9, Whitehall.—The letter you wrote me that related to Sir H. Ingoldsby I gave my lord of Ossory to show His Majesty at Newmarket, and yesterday he sent me word that His Majesty consented to what your Grace proposed in that point, and that I should write you word so in His Majesty's name. But I suppose there needeth something more of ceremony than the bare hand of a secretary to that matter, so I humbly desire your Grace to send in what form you would have the order come from hence. If by letter send a copy of one to be signed here. I suppose there is no great haste, it not being likely he will return before the Session of Parliament.

This day we have had an election for the City Members. There was great expectation of great opposition and contest. But just now I am informed the former members are all chosen again without the least dispute. It is supposed Friday or Saturday will bring His Majesty back hither, where he will find less agreeable divertisements than at Newmarket. A report of His Royal Highness his going for Scotland hath made great noise here, though I cannot judge the reason of it. If it should be so intended, methinks it should be a more justifiable counsel to keep the presumptive heir of the Crown within the King's own dominions than in any other princes.

Postscript.—His Majesty hath not yet declared his pleasure concerning Dr. Ward's removal to Londonderry in case of a vacancy.

ORMOND to EARL OF ANGLESEY.

1679, October 8, Dublin.—Though yours in behalf of Dr. Sall was dated the 21st of August, yet it came not to my hands till the latter end of September, a few days before I came to Kilkenny; and then I found not with it the memorial mentioned, by which I might have understood what injury was designed to have been done him, and how to have prevented it. I am no good judge of Dr. Sall's learning; but I know he has the best reputation for sobriety and piety of any that I have known to come from the Church

of Rome to ours : and if either he had been upon the place, or if I had known he desired either preferment in the Church or better maintenance in this kingdom, I had certainly provided for him, as I shall do yet if he thinks fit to come over, and if anything in my disposal shall fall proper for him to have ; and tho' I do not think I am to be blamed for not knowing what Dr. Sall desired, when neither he nor any friend of his took the pains to tell me, yet I hold myself much obliged to your lordship's admonition.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 10, Newmarket.—Since my last orders are gone to meet the Duke, appointing him and his Duchess to repair to Whitehall. I received your two letters of the 27 September, which were in answer to some of mine ; only the account of the Dutch army I shall not fail to send it speedily to you, and if I find it defective I will order Cole to let me have a particular and an exact one. I return you my humble thanks for the foot company you intend me. My care of my troop at this distance will, I hope, incline you to believe I deserve that addition ; for I shall shortly make them a present of horses and facing for holsters. The King and Queen are in good health, much pleased with this place. On Monday next we all return to Whitehall. Yesterday the Queen dined at Euston with my Lord Chamberlain, a worthy friend to you and yours.

SAME to SAME.

1679, Oct. 10, Newmarket.—Since my closing of my letter of this day's date, I am informed that my Lord of Essex affirms that my Lord Ranelagh can never come off, unless you be favourable, if not in some measure partial, unto him. The first I believe is not likely ; the latter I am sure neither has nor will be your way of proceeding. From the same and several other ways I am informed that my Lord Ranelagh expects much favour from my Lord Chancellor, and that as a mark of a beginning friendship a great part of his Grace's arrears have been paid. I received a letter from Sir Robert Southwell giving an account of my Lord of Orrery's having a discovery made him of a plot that had been carrying on these two or three years. The informer is one David Fitzgerald, who affirms he told it to Sir Thomas Southwell and another justice of peace, who having omitted to make it known to him or the Lord Lieutenant, he intended to have them accused for misprision of treason. This story was writ from Limerick the 16th of September, and your letter being on the 27th I find [neither] Mr. Secretary nor any else has any notice of it from you, by which I guess this is an old trick of his lordship's. I told it to the King, who, calling him rogue and rascal, seems much incensed.

EARL OF BURLINGTON to ORMOND.

1679, October 11, London.—I was upon my journey to this town when I received the honour of your Grace's letter, which gave me very great satisfaction, since by it I find that the condition of that kingdom is not in an apparent danger of falling into a disorder if we continue quiet in this. That there will be great endeavours in the factions and discontented party here to put things into a disturbance I do not doubt; but I hope the prudence and care of those that are loyal and moderate will defeat those designs and preserve the kingdoms in a peaceable condition.

The oaths of two creditable witnesses who have lately been examined before the Lords of the Council and came out of Yorkshire, persuade many who before did little believe there was any such thing as a Plot now to believe it. For they swear that in May last Sir Thomas Gaskin, a Papist of our county and of an estate of 2,000*l.* a year, did offer one of them 1,000*l.* to kill the King, after he had given to both of them the oath of secrecy, which though they took they have since accused the Knight, as also Sir Arthur Stapleton, who married my lord of Lindsay's sister, of the same crime. My Lord Chancellor yesterday told me that the evidence appeared to them so full that they would this time proceed against the accused.

There are yet few of the House of Commons men come up. In our shire most of those that were in the former Parliament elected are now again chosen, and without any charge to the elected, the electors coming in upon their own expense; and this they have in many other shires practised.

My Lord of Ranelagh being now in Ireland to settle his accounts, some order will be, I hope, by your Grace taken to make him satisfy those arrears which by his contract at the end of the farm he was obliged to discharge. But there being a sum of 1,500*l.* a month to be paid by the present Farmers for the discharge of the arrears of the civil and military list contracted by him and his partners during a part of that time that they held the same, and there being upon that account some money due to me, which was left unpaid when the judges, as I am told, were satisfied, I am honestly a suitor to your Grace, since these monies are to be issued out by your order to my lord of Ranelagh, and since I am in the civil list one of the first that have a just title of preference, that your Grace will be pleased to favour me with an order for my satisfaction out of that fund, which will be an addition to those many obligations your Grace has bestowed upon me.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, October 12, Dublin.—I was the last post informed that my Lord of Essex had called for the Bill of Confirmation of Estates sent from hence above a year ago in order to the

calling of a Parliament. Ever since that and other bills were transmitted I have frequently put the Ministers in mind that they lay these before them. I have as frequently represented the defects of all things here for defence. I have put them in mind of the cloudiness of the times at home, and of the dangers threatened from abroad, and I have proposed the calling of a Parliament here, which only could, and I am confident would have provided supplies. To all these representations I have had no material returns. I saw the thing was not done, but could never receive any reason why it was not. All I can collect, and that from letters directed unto others, and by discourse, was that it was held inconvenient that Parliament should sit in England and another here at the same time. I took it for granted that this was the only reason that could be urged in debate, and therefore I took pains to show that any inconvenience from the sitting of two Parliaments at a time might easily be prevented, tho' they should be both in being, by precasting the intervals, and by suitable adjournments and prorogations. And therefore it was that soon after the separation of the Parliament in England the last winter, I took occasion from a letter I received from my Lord of Essex to send him the original of the enclosed copy, to which I have yet had no suitable return. And finding that now his lordship has called for that Bill, and only that, against which great clamours have been raised by my Lord of Orrery, Lord Massereene, and other interested persons, as too favourable to the Irish, I cannot imagine what use he can make of it, unless it be to give credit to the calumnies cast forth against me; for which this conjuncture seems more seasonable than for taking that and the rest of the bills into consideration in order to a Parliament. I am further informed that his lordship discoursing of the Revenue here, let fall some words as if the Scotch regiment should be disbanded, which perhaps may be his opinion; for I remember when he would have had the Regiment of Guards disregimented at least. But I will be bold to say whoever shall advise any diminution of the King's forces at this or any other time that I can figure to myself, either does not understand or does not wish well to the interest of the Crown.

I know no reason why you may not show the King this letter, and the enclosed copy of my letter to my Lord of Essex; by which it appears he may either mend, or (which I think is much better) wholly lay aside that Bill of Confirmation. I mention not other little interruptions I receive in the King's service by that lord's power in the Treasury, because I may impute them to the peevishness of his nature, and the vanity he takes to understand figures better than other men, and to save sixpences. I have no reserve from my Lord Chamberlain or Mr. Secretary Coventry, the latter having long since had a copy of my letter to my Lord of Essex.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 14, Whitehall.—Last night the King and Queen arriving here, met the Duke and Duchess returned out of Holland. I did observe much kindness among them all at their interview. As variety of rumours spread abroad, both false and true, according to the designs men drive at, so I am credibly informed that some give out that you are worked upon to be favourable to my Lord Ranelagh in the business of his accounts, upon an agreement that for that reason you are to continue in the Government. It is also reported that forty thousand pounds he says he has been given by order of a person much in credit, and that besides this he will remain fifty thousand a debtor to the King. These reports, how frivolous soever, I thought it not amiss to trouble you with them, that you may see how necessary it is that you let the world see, upon all occasions, that in this affair neither partiality nor animosity will in the least have influence upon you, but that you are guided by the same justice which has appeared in all your actions. I might have stayed giving you this trouble, but that for custom's sake I will not omit writing to you.

LORD KINGSTON to EARL OF ARRAN.

1679, October 14, Boyle.—The sense I have of your lordship's civilities and favours assure me that your lordship will be pleased to pardon this trouble which I give you in desiring your lordship's assistance in an affair that concerns this town. Here is my lord, a patent come to remove Captain Morley's company from hence to Galway, which will be a very great prejudice to this country, in regard that Hanlon and other rogues, do often frequent the same; and the absence of the company will be a greater invitation to them to perplex the inhabitants, and will also be a very great obstruction to a fort that is here abuilding for His Majesty's service. I humbly beg your lordship would be pleased to obtain a countermand, and that the company may still continue here.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, October 18, Dublin.—I have yours of the 5th and two of the 10th of this month from Newmarket. I have also one of the 7th from Mr. Secretary Coventry, concerning Sir Henry Ingoldsby, wherein he desires to have the form of a dismission, which, though I think it may be better found in the Council Books there, shall be sought out here and sent time enough. For I had rather he should be put from his seat at the Board than dismissed in his absence; and therefore it will be best to keep the intention secret till he arrives here. All the letters that came with yours were full of the Duke of York and his family going to reside in Scotland, with reasons conjectured for and against it suitable to the

dispositions of those that gave them. I cannot doubt but that it is the result of serious consideration and that his reception is preparing. If he passes by land it will be a long journey, and neither safely nor decently to be performed without a considerable guard, and as the multitude are now disposed they may take it for an army raised against the meeting of the Parliament. But I know not why I talk of what will be past before you can receive this.

I had occasion to send Sir Robert Southwell a narrative of what had passed concerning the plot David Fitzgerald undertook to discover, of which I send you a copy. The matter stands as it then did; for yet the gentleman is not come to me. My purpose was when I had completed the examination of Fitzgerald and any concurring witnesses he could produce, to transmit all to Mr. Secretary (for a single witness in this case I am told will not be of much use); but before I could proceed further and with the secrecy necessary, my Lord of Orrery got notice of it, writ it over, and so it is gotten into print, with such reflections and remarks as I doubt not he designed. Howsoever, if there be any reality in the discovery (as very well there may be) the publishing of it in print will in a great measure frustrate the success of our further inquiry, instruct such as may be guilty what defence to make, and perhaps warn them to fly from justice, as the putting of Levallin in print for one of those that should have killed the King at Windsor hath done him; insomuch that all the search I have caused to be made after him hath hitherto been in vain. And now seeing it is more to be feared that those whom Fitzgerald has named to me may evade than that any other whom he may name will stay to be apprehended, I have sent to take and secure them by an express before the print can come to their hands. What it may be fit to do more upon Fitzgerald's further information shall thereupon and according to the best advice I can take be put into execution. Upon consideration of this part of my letter I have judged it might be fit to convert it and my former to Sir Robert Southwell into one to Mr. Secretary, as I shall do by this post if I find it not necessary to say for a narrative from the Judges that went Limerick circuit of their part and knowledge in the matter.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 18, London.—You will receive an account of my son from your worthy friend Sir Robert Southwell. I shall therefore forbear troubling you upon that subject. We hear from all other hands that my Lord of Orrery is either dead or in a very dangerous condition. Upon serious consideration, as well as with the advice of able friends of yours, who wish cordially well in the first place to the King's service and next to your quiet and well being during the time you are in the Government, I intend to move His Majesty that

my Lord of Burlington may have the commands, all but that of Major-General, which shall become void by his brother's death. My reasons are these, that this lord has never been against the King, that his open professions are to be true to the Crown and the lawful successors, that his interest being great he may be useful if ever unhappy times should befall us. If he goes by these principles, I think you ought not to suspect his carriage towards you. Besides this, I cannot accuse him of any want of kindness towards you; for besides his open professions I am informed that he has with scorn refused to join with those that pursue malicious designs against you. When the world will know that we are the persons upon good grounds that advance this affair, I cannot but think that it will have a good effect with the King, if I find him inclined to it, and afterwards with the people when it will be seen that you make choice of a man of interest and not regard the falseness of his brother. I hope, therefore, upon this so extraordinary occasion that you will not dispose either of the troop, company or governments which shall be vacant, and that you will not blame my presumption in acting without your knowledge, if I find it necessary not to stay for it.

My Lord Maynard expressing how great respects he ever had for you, complained that you had left him out of the Commission for swearing the members of the House of Commons. He told me that if any malicious person had said any false thing of him, he hoped you would not condemn him without hearing him. I undertook that it was not a voluntary omission, for that I was confident of your regards towards him. If you have no prejudice to him, I should be glad if either by a letter to him or by some direction to me, you would clear that mistake, and have his name inserted in the Commission, the prorogation affording time enough for such an amendment. Between me and Sir Robert Southwell you have all that comes to our knowledge.

Postscript.—At this instant I have yours of the 12th, together with a letter of yours of the 7th of July last to my Lord of Essex, and will make the best use I can of them.

EARL OF LONGFORD to GEORGE MATHEW.

1679, October 18, London.—On Tuesday last Lord Shaftesbury was removed from His Majesty's Council, and yesterday the Parliament was prorogued to the 25th of January next. By which means our friends will be freed from some trouble which was intended against them by malicious people. I fear we are in some danger of losing Sir John Temple; it being reported here that Mr. Attorney-General presses hard for leave to quit his employment and retire; which when His Majesty consents unto, it is said that Sir John Temple at the mediation of my Lord of Essex will succeed him. My Lord Lieutenant has outrid hitherto all the storms his enemies have endeavoured to raise against

him, and I doubt not but he will do so still, His Majesty being immovable in his resolution of continuing him there in the Government.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1679, October 18, London.—I doubt not but your Grace will have an account from many hands of my Lord Shaftesbury's being removed from the Council, the intimation whereof he received from my Lord Sunderland (who was commanded by the King to signify his pleasure to him,) with so even a temper that he was very pleasant with Mr. Bridgeman, who brought him the letter; and his lordship told him the news of the prorogation of the Parliament, the intention whereof was not then known, but was executed yesterday, there having a competent number of both Houses met to that purpose only, when the Commissioners to that end prorogued it to the 26 of January next: by which means your Grace and my Lord Chancellor will be for some time free from the trouble and malice of your enemies.

My Lord Ossory having acquainted His Majesty with Sir Henry Ingolsby's manner of proceeding in the coffee-houses here against your Grace and the Government, as well as against my Lord Chancellor, His Majesty is resolved to remove him from the Council there. But before it be done Mr. Secretary thinks it will be of advantage to have the testimony of some persons who knew his discourse in the coffee-houses, which I think I shall be able to furnish him with in a day or two.

What materials the journals of the Lords' House would furnish in the affairs of Galway, Mr. Mulys tells me he has already sent your Grace. But I can trace no other footsteps of it in the minutes or journals of the Council Books than the direction to Mr. Secretary Coventry, a copy of whose letter to your Grace upon that subject I have formerly writ to your Grace. My Lord Chief Justice's report upon His Majesty's order concerning Col. Fitzpatrick was yesterday read in Council, of which, as also of the Council's sense upon it, Mr. Secretary intends to give your Grace an account by this night's packet. But I received last night the copy of a letter which 'tis said Darby Costigan, the accuser, wrote to Denny Muschamp, which is so full a discovery of the intrigue and malice of the Colonel's enemies, and tends so much to the clearing of his innocence, that I wonder your Grace mentioned nothing of it to Mr. Secretary. For I cannot believe your Grace can be ignorant of the letter, if such a thing were really writ by Costigan, it being very unlikely that Muschamp, who is a friend of the Colonel's, should conceal the letter, of which so good use may be made to his advantage.

There has been a strong report this week past at Whitehall, and indeed all over the city that my Lord Ranelagh has so

perfectly reconciled himself to your Grace, and made so fair a progress in his accounts, that all matters there relating to his accounts will certainly end to his advantage. And because it has been discoursed of at the end of the Gallery it is so universally believed that several of your Grace's friends have been with me to know the truth of it, to which I was able to give no other answer but that I did not believe it; and thought it one of his lordship's accustomed rhodomontades. But by the method I understand is taken by the Committee in proceeding upon the first account, I foresee his lordship may possibly slip out his own neck and lay load upon his partners. For how can the advantage of law be taken against his lordship in the 24,000*l*. (for which I am informed a *scire facias* was issued out the last term) this next term while his account is depending in which the said 24,000*l*. is included? And if by this means the cause of difference between him and his partners be removed, he will easily reconcile himself to them, who finding themselves overpowered with his conduct and interest, will be glad to patch up an agreement with his lordship: the consequence whereof will be that he shall command their purses to make compositions for what remains of his contract. And when by this means he has disentangled himself from the difficulties he was under he will be at liberty to play over again his old tricks, and come back hither with greater credit and force to do it.

The Duke is invited by the Artillery Company to dine with them on Tuesday next, which invitation he has accepted of. The day for his journey into Scotland is not yet fixed, and it is said the Duchess, who was to have continued here, has promised to accompany him thither, and order has been given to my Lord Duke Hamilton to prepare Holyrood House for their reception. Mr. Secretary told me this morning that the present Lord Mayor of London, Sir James Edwards, is very importunate with him for the despatch of some grant the King has made him of lands in Ireland, the consideration of which is now before your Grace. And Sir James having in this critical time behaved himself very worthily towards the King in the government of the City, His Majesty is also in some pain till Sir James is satisfied. Mr. Secretary therefore begs of your Grace to hasten your report to him upon it. I presumed in my last to your Grace to make an humble request to your Grace about the command of the ship designed for Loughneagh in which your Grace's sense (be it what your Grace pleases) shall entirely satisfy me.

The extraordinary rains which have continued here these three weeks past have raised the waters and rivers beyond the observation of most men now living, and the ways are so bad for travellers that I almost conclude it impossible, as well as very unfit for my wife to undertake a winter journey, from which I shall have no easy task to dissuade her. But

whether I prevail or no with her I shall however hasten myself into Ireland time enough to be there before the beginning of next term.

Mr. Attorney-General here has several times petitioned His Majesty for leave to quit his employment and retire, which His Majesty has not yet been pleased absolutely to grant. But it is generally believed that when he does it is resolved that Sir John Temple shall succeed him ; and it is so far believed that I find Sir John Mead (who is the Duke's Attorney in Ireland) puts in to be Sir John Temple's successor there : for prevention of which, because I take it to be an injury to your Grace to have a place of that importance to the Government disposed of without your Grace's knowledge, I have desired Mr. Secretary to move His Majesty that no grant may be made of it till your Grace is consulted in it. Sir Richard Stephens, who cannot for 3,600*l.*, which he has offered to Sir William Temple, obtain the Mastership of the Rolls' place, thinks he has some title to the Solicitor's office (in case Sir John Temple be removed) from a promise your Grace has made him, of which I know nothing but by his information, and take not myself to be a proper judge of men's fitness or qualifications for such an employment, so I am no further concerned in this affair than for your Grace, whom I would not willingly see passed by in it.

SAME to SAME.

1679, October 21, London.—Since my last to your Grace there has nothing of moment occurred here, and I had foreborne giving your Grace this trouble had I not found Mr. Secretary Coventry very uneasy in the affairs of my Lord Mayor : who being on Wednesday sennight to quit his Mayoralty is jealous that when he is out of so useful an employment (wherein he has with great advantage to His Majesty's service behaved himself in opposition to the tumultuous spirits of the City) the merit of his past services will be forgotten. And therefore he does with great impatience solicit both the Secretaries and the King himself, who has often repeated his commands to Mr. Secretary Coventry for the despatch of it. And Mr. Secretary says till your Grace make your report he cannot move further in it, and therefore he beseeches your Grace to hasten it to him. The Duke and Duchess, encouraged by these last three days of fair weather, have resolved on Monday next to set out for Scotland. Captain Legge's troop attend them to York, and thence the Lord Fretwell's troop convoys them into Scotland. His Majesty last night knighted the two new Sheriffs of London, and this day His Royal Highness dines with the officers of the Artillery Company.

There has been a whisper of my Lord Chancellor's removal here, but I find no ground for it, His Majesty having within these two days spoke with great kindness of him. There is

great exception taken here at my Lord Primate's having taken away a sinecure which my Lord of Essex while he was in that government gave to Dr. Sall, and which was his chief support. And he being thought the considerablest convert from the Church of Rome, it is much wondered he should be so discouraged. And really this is made matter of great reflection, of which I have by this packet given his Grace intimation. My Lord Burlington told me yesterday he was resolved this night to give your Grace some cautions in Col. Fitzpatrick's business, concerning which he says several great men here have a jealous eye upon your Grace.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 25, London.—I had an opportunity the other day of showing the King your letter of the 21st of this month, which he read with much attention and seemed satisfied with the contents thereof to that degree, as you will see by Mr. Secretary's letter orders are given to consider of his Irish Bill in order to a Parliament. By His Majesty's command I waited on my Lord Chancellor to desire his care that all things might be soon despatched that you may soon have occasion of serving the King and kingdom by such Acts as may conduce thereunto. I pray God you may have honest and good members chosen, wherein all manner of care and diligence ought to be used. Just now I have yours of the 18th, and shall enjoin secrecy in the affair of Sir Henry Ingolsby, in which I think you take a better course to remove him when he is present than during his absence. I shall with advice of your friends make the best use I can of the relation you are pleased to give me concerning the information of David Fitzgerald.

Last post brought news of the death of my Lord of Orrery; not finding it confirmed in your last makes me doubt of the truth of that report. Perhaps others may have information. As yet I have not seen anybody that has heard out of Ireland. The King has given orders for a jewel for me to present to the Queen of Spain, and my Lord of Essex was to know His Majesty's mind in relation to my appointments. What relates to the Duke's journey you will learn as much from the news books as from anything I can tell you, so at present I shall not give you any further trouble. I beseech you to be mindful of Savignon, who has served me with so much zeal; and so much to his loss, having quitted very great practice to serve me by land and sea.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, October 26, Dublin.—I agree fully with all you say concerning my Lord Burlington's affections to the King's service and friendship to me in your letter of the 18th inst., which I have but some minutes to answer by this post. But

you will not wonder, or he take it ill, that not knowing that he affected any command in the army, and lying under his Majesty's injunction, I have disposed of his brother's troop and company, the first to Captain Edward Brabazon, and the other to my Lord of Granard, who else would have been the only general officer in the army without a foot company. The Government of the City of Limerick I have given to Sir William King; but if my Lord Burlington desires to have that I do not doubt but that Sir William may be persuaded to resign it and content himself to be his deputy. The Constableness of the Castle of Limerick I have given my Lord Blessinton, who has a considerable interest in that town, but the small perquisites belonging to it I have secured to Sir William King, who performs the duty. Whether my Lord Blessinton will resign to the chief of his family I cannot say, but methinks it would be a deference that might become him. There is now no Governor of the Counties of Cork, Limerick or Clare, out of which my Lord Burlington may have which he shall please, or all three, unless His Majesty shall think it fit that my Lord of Thomond have that of Clare. If you had spoke with the Secretaries they would have told you how I was commanded to give Captain Brabazon the first troop that should fall, and upon what grounds. I should be sorry that my Lord Maynard should think I could be capable of doing anything disrespectful towards him, believing him as I do to be as worthy a gentleman as I know, and my particular friend. But the truth of the matter is it was not, as least as I thought, in my power to change any of those names that were sent me to put in the Commission for swearing the House of Commons. Yet had I read them over, and missed his name, as I did not, I think I should have ventured to put him in. I pray you assure his lordship that I am so far from having the least dissatisfaction with him that I beseech him to believe me to be his very real friend and servant.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, October 28, London.—I writ to you some days since, humbly offering my opinions as to the disposal of some places vacant by my Lord of Orrery's death. The Duke spoke on behalf of my Lord of Burlington as to the troop, but the King would not hear of it, and talking to me about that lord seemed unsatisfied with his actings in Parliament. But I that observed him cannot see any just reason to blame him. If being against my Lord of Danby be the thing, many more are in the same case. However, I have not spoken anything to my Lord of Burlington, so that he cannot say I have failed in my design of assisting him towards the King or you. I wish you could oblige him for many reasons. My Lord Chamberlain thinks it would be proper for you to alter the

late Commission for swearing members of the House of Commons, and that you would empower some of them to administer the oaths, which he thinks will be well taken. I am ignorant of the forms, but leave the thing to your consideration. I have not anything more to say, although I am not pressed in point of time.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, October 28, Whitehall.—We begin to consider of your bills for a Parliament. The Bill of Settlement is ordered to be considered by the Committee for Ireland. Yours of the 20th is the first and only letter that brought the news of the Earl of Orrery's death. His relations do not yet avow it. His Majesty is well pleased with the dispositions you have made, and promiseth to hold his hand for the rest till he hear further from your Grace; but I perceive he hath had very good impressions of the Earl of Thomond's just pretences to the government of Clare. Yesterday His Royal Highness and family took their journey towards Scotland. The Earl of Radnor is made President of the Council. No news of importance from home or abroad.

ORMOND to SIR HANS HAMILTON.

1679, October 28, Dublin.—It would be an extraordinary service to the King and of great advantage to me that Oliver Plunket, the titular Primate, and Tyrrell, the titular Bishop of Clogher, might be apprehended; and therefore it is that I recommend it to your uttermost care and diligence, presuming that no man can be more like to effect it than yourself: and the better to enable you I give you liberty to engage me for any reasonable reward to any that shall discover them or any of them to you, so as they may be taken, or any one of them. The thing is of more than ordinary importance, and therefore let me once more recommend it to your best industry.

Copy.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679, October 30, Dublin.—On the 28th I received yours of the 21st of this month with the enclosed information, and by that night's post sent orders to the fittest persons I could think of to search for and apprehend the two persons named in the information, and shall give the like orders concerning some others of the same degree and profession as soon as I can have probable notice whereabouts they are harboured. I do not know of above seven or eight men of that sort in the kingdom, and I think I can guess which of them are most like to have signed the paper of recommendation, if any such there was. But in case any of them shall be taken I doubt it will be hard to discover by them whether there was really any such paper signed by them or no. Nor can I imagine

from what other hand, or by what other means to go about the discovery of a thing the knowledge and concealing whereof is so criminal. Yet I will turn all my thoughts and supply all my endeavours to find out the truth, being besides the performance of my duty engaged to it by reasons that are peculiar to, Sir, etc.

Copy.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, November 1, London.—I need not bespeak your favour or assistance in anything relating to my Lord Chamberlain, knowing how well and with how much reason you are disposed to anything wherein his interest can be concerned. To my Lord Privy Seal, who shares in the same business now before you, I think I ought to inform you of his late behaviour, which has been with all the vigour and steadiness imaginable in the House of Lords and elsewhere upon the occasion of the King's service and the right of the Crown and the lawful succession. Besides I cannot accuse him of any want of goodwill towards you, especially when the affairs of Ireland were mentioned in the Parliament, where there was no wanting many false and malicious reflections. I beseech you to make as speedy a return of that affair as conveniently you can. I question not but if there be room to show friendship you will afford it upon this occasion. My Lord Privy Seal repines that a letter was sent for erecting some land into two manors, and that nothing has been done upon it. Both these lords hope you will show them your friendship in the business of the lapse money, as well as in that due to them by the Lord Ranelagh.

SIR HANS HAMILTON to ORMOND.

1679, November 1.—Having received your command to return to you the names of three discreet justices of the peace, in order to your Grace's sending down to this country a commission for trying the three Tories lately taken, I humbly offer to your Grace Sir George Acheson, Edward Richardson, Esq., and Mark Middleton, Esq., who are discreet and understanding persons, and now in the country. The Irishman's name who so eagerly pursued the Tories, and to whom I allowed to carry a carbine, is Torlogh P. Hagan. Your Grace was pleased to promise him a license for so doing, which will encourage him and others of the country to do a like service.

I gave John M'Ginnis your Grace's order, and with it an order not only to those of my own company, but to those at Newry and Tanderagee as being near to the places where he hopes to find him napping. This was M'Ginnis his own desire; but I ordered him to keep all the orders private to himself until he had immediate occasion to make use of them. He is as likely to do it as any I know.

SAME to SAME.

1679, November 1.—Your Grace's of the 28th of October I received, in obedience to which I will leave no means unattempted to obey your commands. I am confident if David Fitzgerald comes to this country I shall hear of it. But I was about four days ago told by a popish priest, who some days before had gotten induction to a parish from him, that he had left him at a certain place within seven miles of Dublin; that he had cut off his beard and hair, had got a light coloured wig, and went by a feigned name which I have forgot, for then I had not had your Grace's commands. I have sent for the same priest and will get by discovery from him the name of the place he resided in then and for several weeks before, and will by the next give your Grace an account of all. I am confident he keeps much, if not in Dublin, yet near it. I assure your Grace if he comes within his own pretended diocese I shall meet with him. I have laid out also for Tyrrell, who if in this country or county of Cavan will also be found. But his absconding places I know not so well as the others.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, November 2, Whitehall.—This is only to accompany a petition of my lord of Thomond referred by his King to your Grace. I acquainted you in my last that the King had a very good impression of his right, and a letter was once proposed; but I desired it might pass by reference to your Grace. He is not himself in town, but when he cometh you will easily believe it will not be pursued with less activity. Your Grace may take your own means, but the manner of your compliance is worth considering. If you concur you will have share in the obligation; if you oppose you will have a struggle: for the King seemeth much resolved in it.

This is from the Council table, where we have a detail of a new discovery relating to the Plot, made by one Willoughby, not as an original informer, but a delinquent confessing; which will involve many men in the Plot, both as to trial of several persons not yet accused, and the great disadvantage of those that are; very foul practices being sworn by him, and with very particular circumstances. It is said Col. Talbot is as well at Paris as ever in his life, which hath some reflections upon your Irish attestations, though there hath yet nothing been spoken openly of this.

SIR HANS HAMILTON to ORMOND.

1679, November 3.—Since my last of the 1st instant I meet the priest I mentioned, whom I told I had a desire to send a letter to Doctor Fitzgerald (in favour of the parish priest of the parish I live in, whom the said Doctor was turning out) if I might know where to send it to him. He told me that I was confident that it would find him at the place he

left him at, which is an ancient lady's house in a castle about a mile and a half from the Naul, near or in the road from Naul to Dublin, but could not remember the lady's name. He told me that I must direct my letter to Mr. Meleady, near the Naul (for he goes by that name). It is possible he may be there still, unless he have been alarmed from Dublin. I am resolved to send my parish priest with a letter about his own concern to find him out, for such can best do it; but I have laid out all his haunts in the whole diocese; so that I am confident that he shall not come thither but your Grace shall have a good account of him.

Postscript.—I have also laid for him in the County Donegal, where he often lies quiet at a Papist house of my name.

SIR THOMAS WHARTON TO ORMOND.

1679, November 7, York.—I had the honour and satisfaction of your Grace's of the 17th October about a week since, but would not sooner give you my acknowledgments for it, intending to acquaint your Grace with what I have seen and been told (by those that waited upon the Duke from London hither) of his Highness motions to these parts. He lodged the first night at my Lord Salisbury's house in Hatfield, where his lordship was not, nor any that gave the Duke's servants what pleased them. The second night at an inn in Bigglesmouth in Bedfordshire, where my Lord Ailesbury waited upon his Royal Highness with some gentlemen. The third was at Huntingdon, where he lodged at Sir Lionel Walden's, and was nobly treated. The fourth was at Stamford, in my Lord Lindsey's lieutenancy, where his lordship and some other persons of quality attended, and so likewise at Grantham the next night, that town being too in Lincolnshire. The sixth he came to Newark, in Nottinghamshire, where the Duke of Newcastle, being lieutenant, waited upon His Highness. There they rested Sunday, and on Monday came to Welbeck, my Lord Newcastle's, and were treated that night, and the next morning came to Doncaster in Yorkshire. Upon the way, at the entrance into the county, was the High Sheriff and some few of us neighbours, and he not being known to the Duke desired my acquainting His Highness that he was there to wait upon him, which when I had acquainted the Duke with he commanded his coach to stop, and the High Sheriff presented himself to His Highness (who had come above sixty miles to perform that duty, living very near the bishopric of Durham). Before we got to Doncaster divers others of the county met the Duke stragglingly, and my Lords Derby and Strafford in a coach, and the Duke stopping they lighted and kissed his hands. At Doncaster was my Lord Derby, Strafford, my Lady Anna Laugh, [?Ranelagh], and Margaret Wentworth, and other ladies to kiss the Duchess's hands; and many county gentlemen waited on him to Pomfret on Wednesday,

and last night to this town, and I suppose will stay till Monday that the Duke moves northwards. My Lord and Lady Derby stayed much longer with my Lord Strafford than they intended, purposely for this courtship. At Tadcaster (eight miles from this place) the Archbishop of York kissed the Duke and Duchess's hands in their coach, and so waited on them hither. The Sheriffs of the city were about three miles off, and after the Duke alighting, the Dean and Prebends first, and a little after my Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs presented themselves in their formalities, and the Deputy Recorder made a speech, in which he complimented the Duke, who himself brought them to kiss the Duchess's hands. My Lord Marquis of Athol came from London with the Duke, and his lady in the Duchess's coach, which troubles some left behind at London, as I am credibly informed. My Lady Roscommon has that honour too, and the Duke likes the company in the coach so well that he has not been on horseback all this journey, but sometimes walks a mile or two when the way is good. The Bishop of Durham was the last week five days' journey from Durham towards London, and upon notice of the Duke's going by land into Scotland returned back into the Bishopric to receive the Duke there, and ('tis said) to treat him three or four days. My lady Marquis of Winchester intends the being here this night, coming from her house about thirty miles northward. Your Grace will pardon this long scribble, which is only for a winter night's diversion. The Duke's retinue is but small, my Lord Roscommon and a few of his family, and my Lord Lumley, a volunteer. One single troop came hither, and my Lord of Sackville's [?] marches along from hence and the other returns.

I fear the page's intelligence of my Lady Derby is not authentic. I had the honour of seeing her and her sister at my poor house, where it is to be supposed your Grace and my lady Duchess were wishing her. My Lord Derby within this month has given me thanks for that I was instrumental in getting him so good a wife. Truly I hope he values her as he ought. I have both his own and aunt Strafford's word for it, who commanded her this evening to present her humble service to your Grace, with her thanks for your kind wish to her sent in your letter, which I told her of. After all this ramble it is time to ease your eyes, when I have begged your Grace's giving my humblest duty to my Lady.

HENRY THYNNE to ORMOND.

1679, November 8, Whitehall.—Mr. Secretary being again confined to his bed by the gout in his right hand, which makes him incapable of writing to your Grace with his own hand, has commanded me to acquaint you that His Majesty being informed that your Grace is disposing of the pension of 800*l.* per annum which my Lord Orrery enjoyed in lieu of his government of Munster till a certain sum of money was paid

him for that government, His Majesty desires your Grace not to dispose of the said pension, he not being now in a condition to pay the money which will be demanded by the children or executors of the Earl of Orrery upon the stop of that pension. By the next I hope Mr. Secretary will be able himself to write your Grace more fully upon this matter.

The Council is frequently employed in the examination of Mr. Dangerfield, *alias* Willoughby, about this second Plot of the Papists, upon which my Lord Powis is committed to the Tower. But as yet this matter not being thoroughly examined, but imperfect, I shall not presume to give your Grace any account of it, presuming you have it from better hands.

Postscript.—Thursday night the Duke and Duchess of Grafton's marriage was confirmed.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, November 11, London.—Yesterday I showed my Lord of Burlington your letter. He is extremely satisfied, and all he desires is that you would keep void for him the lieutenancy of the county of Cork until he waits upon you, which he designs doing about the beginning of the next spring, and any other intention he absolutely disclaims, and he does express great kindness to you and all related unto you. When Mulys went to my Lord of Essex concerning my appointments for my Spanish journey he told him the King had altered that resolution. As yet I have it not from His Majesty's own mouth, but considering the present wants I little doubt the truth of that assertion. I have not anything more to say. Sir Robert Southwell I am sure informs you much better than I can do of further transactions.

WARRANT to CAPTAIN THOMAS FITZGERALD for ARREST of PATRICK LAVALLYAN.

1679, November 12, Whitehall.—Whereas we have been given to understand that you have some information that Captain Lavallyan, one of the persons accused for designing to assassinate us, is in Ireland, and of the place where he is harboured, we do hereby direct and authorise you to repair forthwith to such place or places where you suspect he may be found, and having seized and apprehended him to deliver him into the hands of our right trusty and right entirely well beloved cousin and counsellor James Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to be by him sent over in safe custody into England, in order to be proceeded against according to law. And in the execution hereof all Justices of the Peace, Constables, and other our officers and loving subjects are hereby required to be assisting to you as they will answer the contrary at their perils. And for so doing this shall be your warrant. Given, etc.

A like warrant for apprehending of Denis O'Kearney.

Signed SUNDERLAND.

SIR ROBERT HOWARD to ORMOND.

1679, November 12, London.—By reason of Mr. Mylius's his unjust and ill conduct of Mrs. Gwin's affairs, I have been necessitated to send one Mr. Alexander Adair, and to constitute a new person, one Mr. St. Vast, to look after the business, and to call Mr. Mylius to an account, and return such moneys as are due at the Exchequer. Mr. Gwin has commanded me humbly to desire your Grace that if there be any application made to you in her behalf, that you would be pleased to help her by your commands. She presents you with her real acknowledgments for all your favours, and protests she would write in her own hand, but her wild characters she says would distract you. This, my lord, was her own natural notion when I showed her your Grace's kind return upon the King's letter, since which I have not heard anything from Mr. Mylius, which gives me some apprehensions of him, and caused my sending a messenger on purpose.

I will not lose this opportunity of giving your Grace some account of things here. Mr. Dangerfield, *alias* Willoughby, has now finished his information and his pardon is ordered. He has proved most of the particulars, which would not have been of so much importance had they not been denied by my Lady Powis, and one Mrs. Syliard [Cellier] a midwife. His charge was that he was taken out of Newgate to my Lady Powis, and supplied with money, and carried to the Lords of the Tower to speak with the Lords, and that my Lord of Arundel and my Lord Powis treated with him, and offered him 2,000*l.* and then 3,000*l.* to kill the King; which he said he scrupled to do as a matter of so difficult a nature that if he could compass it he should not get off to enjoy his reward; but acknowledged he undertook to kill my Lord Shaftesbury, and was then about it and spoke with my lord; but it seems that he was so jealous that he would not let his servants go out of the room; by which means failing he was afterwards upbraided by Mrs. Syliard as wanting spirit, and she resolved to execute it. These things lay upon his own testimony, but all the circumstances of being fetched out of prison, supplied with money, carried to the Tower to the Lords and several meetings with and at Mrs. Syliard's house, he proved by others. He also had my Lord Peterborough sent for by the Council, who confessed that he had carried Sir Robert Peyton privately to the Duke, and from these particulars and others made out the discovery there was a counterplot designed to involve the Protestants in it, that divers considerable persons and their estates might be laid hold on.

I have run over this shortly because I am confident your Grace has the account at large. Only I shall add what effects it works here. In the first place 'tis confidently reported here that on the 17th of this month, on Queen

Elizabeth's birthday, Sir Robert Peyton will be burned with the Pope, and 'twill seem a just resentment of people that such a man that out of pretence of conscience appeared so high against the Duke not only in Parliament, but in all places and upon all occasions, should be found out in secret addresses; at least where he had behaved himself extremely ill. I wish it may be a motive to induce all persons to hate unbecoming violences.

The business has given new ferment to that which seemed more quiet than formerly, and has now confirmed belief and wakened apprehensions, rendering most men of the moderatest principles eager for a Parliament, which the last Council day was moved to the King, and seconded by many. My Lord of Essex, my Lord Russell, my Lord Cavendish, and Sir Henry Capel spoke in it, but the King appeared not then ready or easy to have it debated, but it was left as the thing resolved again to be taken up. The City is with those that think it necessary for a Parliament to sit in January, and I believe this opinion is so universal that it will come with more weight to the King than can be conveniently resisted. Besides, I fear that if the King depends to subsist by his own revenue without further help, he will be deceived in that opinion, let what severity or good husbandry be used that can be. For the consideration of the debts on the revenue and the sad prospect of 300,000*l.* a year ceasing by Midsummer next come twelve months will make it appear too desperate to depend on such a proposition, and I hope there are none that undertake such a dangerous piece of service.

With these things joins this day the news of the Dutch having made a strict alliance with the French. How true that is I yet know not, but enough is believed to increase the particular desire of the Parliament, which yet hangs in suspense. This short account I have given your Grace to continue all testimonies of my duty and inclination to serve you.

Postscript.—I write more freefly because I send it by a safe hand, who returns again to me.

SIR STEPHEN FOX to ORMOND.

1679, November 18, Whitehall.—I think it very improper that your Grace should be informed by any other hand than mine of the change it hath pleased His Majesty to make in my condition. For upon the Earl of Essex his withdrawing himself from the Commission of the Treasury, the King hath thought fit to advance me (tho' unworthy) to be in that Commission. And as it is a mark of His Majesty's great goodness I cannot but value it, but otherwise I assure your Grace I should have been much better pleased to have continued in my old station, with which, being better acquainted, I could have been more useful than I fear I can be in the difficult post I am now going to, which will be inconsistent

with the Paymaster's place of the Forces, but not with that of the Green Cloth, which giving me accommodation especially for lodgings in Whitehall makes me desire either to keep that office, or so to resign it that I may find my conveniency thereby still continued; which His Majesty hath been pleased to leave to my choice, either to remain Clerk of the Green Cloth still, or to resign it to my brother, His Majesty's ancient servant, who being sixteen years older than myself and coming in to be youngest at the Board, will not, I think, occasion repining in anybody, which makes me the bolder in humbly desiring your Grace's favour in concurring with His Majesty in granting me that liberty if I shall find such a resignation expedient shortly after I am in the Commission; for as yet I am sure it will be for the good of the service of the house if I remain an officer, for it may not be impossible to increase the sum of 48,000*l.* per annum for the good of my fellow servants, which if I can I am sure I will. But as yet that is the sum fixed for the expense of the House and Stables, which 107,000*l.* did never amply defray. In short, my humble request to your Grace is that I may by your Grace's leave resign my office when it is seasonable to my brother, if I find it expedient so to do.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, November 18, London.—A monstrous national concern of a greyhound match between the Duke of Albemarle and Sir Ralph Dutton obliging my judgeship to appear here, gives me a specious pretence of addressing to your Grace that if any journey work of any sort is cut out I may have your Grace's custom. As for news, some is too dangerous and some too doubtful to be written. Of the former sort I dare not so much as think. Of the latter, the two main points are whether a Parliament or no Parliament, and whether a League offensive and defensive. They say that my Lord Essex last Wednesday moved in Council that His Majesty would be pleased to satisfy the longings of his people by some assurance of that kind, and that Roberts, Cavendish and Sir H. Capel all seconded it, but the King did answer he had not yet thought of it. As to the other, the two rivals for our strict alliance are France and Holland. We believe the former are the franker chapmen, and consequently will carry it. And the greater the alliance the greater the sum, so that it comprehends all enemies, both domestic and foreign. And some resolve the meanness of touching French money to be the reason that makes my Lord Essex squeasy stomach, that it can no longer digest his employment of first Commissioner of the Treasury, who certainly is quitting his seat in that Chamber, and Mr. Hyde (now making Viscount Killingworth [Kenilworth]) is to slip out of his own into it, being next to it, and Sir Stephen Fox makes up the number of five. One passage I must repeat, whose truth was affirmed to me

yesterday, that Lord Halifax at his coming lately to town sent for his excuse why he did not wait on Lord Shaftesbury that he had a severe fit of the strangury, who sent him back word he mistook his disease : it was Ormond lay very heavy cross his stomach, and he could neither get it up nor down.

But to leave these constrained secret discourses, I crave leave to return to what is more natural and easy to me. Yesterday the two great antagonists for the laurel of being best greyhound master (Albemarle and Dutton) have matched five greyhounds for 100*l.* each dog, and one more the odd match, to be run the first day the weather will permit. Tho' judge for both, I have backed my countryman with fifty-five guineas. Of the success your Grace may expect a perfect account hereafter, as also of all things else during my stay here that shall happen to my knowledge and be judged worthy of your Grace's. And. Brians Lindsay House is let. As I greedily covet your Grace's commands, so I humbly beseech for the future that they may be directed to my new correspondent, my Lord Oxford's porter, at his lordship's house in St. James's Square ; as also your Grace's belief that as they shall be joyfully received, so they shall be readily obeyed.

JOHN NAPPER to THE FARMERS OF THE CUSTOMS.

1679, November 19, Waterford.—The soldiers of the place are very rude. Besides a hundred abuses formerly committed, the last night they barbarously murdered the High Constable of this place, and cut Captain Wheeler, commander of a London ship, in three or four places without provocation. They make the taverns and alehouse keepers to shut up their doors, and hinder trade much. Besides we dare not walk the streets as much as formerly at all hours of the night, for the preservation of the Customs, because of their mischiefs. This must be the Farmers' evil, if not prevented, which makes me presume to acquaint you, although I believe our Collector has done it to the Board before.

Copy. Endorsed : A letter written concerning the murder and other disorders said to be committed by the soldiers in Waterford.

CAPTAIN JULIUS LOCKHART to ORMOND.

1679, November 22, Waterford.—I do not doubt but that your Grace has been surprised with the news concerning the death of one of the inhabitants of this city that the express brought your Grace. And I do really believe that they have aggravated the examinations now sent up to your Grace with several circumstances, and made them a great deal worse than it is really, if the truth of the whole was but known. Our Major being by your Grace's orders gone to Youghal, I have thought it my duty to acquaint your Grace

of the truest relation I could have, which I have sent up in a letter to Mr. Gascoigne, your Grace's Secretary, to be given to your Grace, and I must presume to tell your Grace that it is our great misfortune that having in all other places lived regularly and well with the inhabitants, we should here meet with more rudeness than anywhere else, and nothing but daily reproaches from the inhabitants.

HENRY COVENTRY TO ORMOND.

1679, November 22, Whitehall.—During my indisposition I was fain to make use of Henry Thynne's hand to your Grace to signify the King's pleasure that the money yearly paid to the Earl of Orrery in lieu of his Government of Munster should not be transferred to the payment of any other pensions till the pretences the Earl's children have to it were heard and determined. I suppose your Grace hath received that letter, and this is but a reiterating the same command from His Majesty.

You will be informed from several hands what a design the last Lord Mayor or his agent Taylor had to have dis-obliged not only your Grace but all future lieutenants of Ireland by putting Kilmainham and some three hundred acres of the Phoenix Park into his grant, as land in the custodiam of one Hill. I confess I did always fear there was something in it that would not endure the light of Ireland that made them press so hard for passing it here. But it is happily stopped at the Treasury, and methinks this were a good occasion to propose a settlement of that Park upon the Government for ever. For I have been told the Duchess of Cleveland began to renew her old suit again, but was refused.

Your Grace's of the 5th of November came when I was sick, which I transmitted to Sir Robert Southwell to acquaint His Majesty in Council with it, who possibly may have given you some account of it. But the truth is our plots are so teeming that they take up all our time. But I will the next week make one essay more upon that letter.

For yours of the 3rd of November, I shall transmit your report of my Lord Thomond's affair to the Treasury, where your friend Mr. Hyde now presides and is of the Council. My Lord Anglesey's letter appeareth now to be nigher my own door for Mr. Cooke drawing these letters, and I have got it signed and countersigned, though the work done. But it seemeth my Lord Privy Seal never thought fitting to send for it, and the letter hath remained so many months in my office for want of calling for. But if men will appoint nobody to look to their business either on this side or your side the sea, it is no wonder if they meet with disappointments. As to what relates to the Proclamation concerning the Plot, I shall acquaint His Majesty the next Council day, and receive his commands and transmit them to you. My Lord Longford

is coming towards you he saith this week. He will give you a large account of our disorders here. The Committee for the Irish bills is so far from sitting so often as your Grace desires that they have never sat yet. The reason I cannot tell.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, November 22, London.—News is become the scarcest commodity in this city. We talk that it is not we who refuse to conclude amity with the Dutch, but the Dutch must be secured by a Parliament, and then the consequences must needs be that amity with them is uncertain, as is the sitting of the Parliament. Nor do I see that we are guilty of making any great court to the French, whose King (as a Privy Councillor told me this evening) hath sent our King word that the Duke of Buckingham hath been with them, and offered to treat with him in behalf of the people of England, who on such terms as he should propose would embrace his protection. But the King I suppose can only resent it, not question it, unless the French King could be persuaded to come and give testimony *viva voce*. If I may be permitted to play at small game I shall repeat a particular that I was informed part this week at the Duchess of Portsmouth's, where just before the King came in a most scurrilous, libellous copy of verse was read, severe upon almost all the courtiers save my Lord Mulgrave, whose sole accusation was that he was a cuckold-maker. This brought him under suspicion to be (if not guilty of the making, yet) guilty of being privy to the making of them, who just coming in with the King, Mrs. Buckley saluted him (in raillery) by the name of cuckold-maker, who taking it in earnest replied she knew one cuckold he never made, which she took for so great an affront that it seems her husband was entitled to the revenge. But the King, it seems, came to the knowledge of it, and interfered his authority to antidote bloodshed. I have nothing more to add but that the penman is the reader's most devoted servant.

ORMOND to the MAYOR OF WATERFORD.

1679, November 25, Dublin Castle.—Finding that several letters in that city to divers persons in this, make mention not only of the late killing of one Browne, High Constable of Waterford, but of many other outrages, insolencies and oppressions, committed on the inhabitants by the officers and soldiers garrisoned there, we wonder not only that we have received no account or intimation from you, the Chief Magistrate, of the killing of the said Browne, but that if the other violences committed by them have been so great, and for so long a time continued as is reported, that neither at our being with you at Waterford, nor so near you as Kilkenny, Clonmel, and Carrick, nor yet since our coming hither, no complaint or address hath been made unto us whereby we

might have had knowledge of the grievance of that city, and opportunity to let them see how ready we are and ever shall be to the utmost of our power to protect and do justice to the meanest of them against whoever shall presume to injure them, such being His Majesty's gracious pleasure and express commands laid upon us. Whereof we require you to give the citizens and inhabitants of that city notice, and whatsoever they have to complain of shall be readily and impartially heard and justice as impartially done to them or any of them that shall appear to have been wronged. And further, we require you according to the duty of your place to use your uttermost endeavours to prevent any new or further disorders, which we have already required from the officer commanding the soldiers in chief there. And so we remain, etc.

Addressed : To our trusty and well-beloved the Mayor of the City of Waterford.

ORMOND to SIR STEPHEN FOX.

1679, November 26, Dublin.—Nothing could have been better contrived to my satisfaction than your access to a part in the Treasury and your continuance in the Household. I hope the King and you will as well find your account in it. But if you shall find any inconsistency or inconvenience in retaining your place at the Green Cloth, I willingly consent that your brother may supply your room there, which consent of mine you are at liberty to declare either by virtue of this letter or by making use of one of the blanks in your hands.

When you shall be at liberty and settled in the Treasury Chamber, I shall desire you to allow Sir Cyril Wyche some time of discoursing with you concerning the affairs of this kingdom, and particularly about the recovery of a sum of money, part of that advanced by the present Farmers of this Irish Revenue, and which is gone astray betwixt the Lord Treasurer, Danby, the Earl of Ranelagh, the Treasurer of the Navy and the present Farmers. Sir Cyril will inform you more particularly. I shall also desire you that at your leisure you would look upon those State and other papers relating to this kingdom which have been transmitted hence, and sent by the King's command to the Treasury Chamber that you may the better comprehend what may hereafter be sent, and enabled upon occasion to make proper reports upon reference from His Majesty. I wish you all happiness at all times and at all places.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, November 29, Whitehall.—You will have an account of what has happened and the present state of things since the arriving of the Duke of Monmouth, and also what passed at the Board yesterday relating to Ireland from a more authentic hand. I have nothing to trouble you withal but

humbly to mind you of sending over an account of those addresses made by the Lords and I suppose transmitted by the King to you, relating to the security of the Protestant religion in that kingdom. Great exceptions have been taken at you giving the Irish time to bring in their arms, and not making a private and strict search as you did when the conspiracy of Blood was on foot. I leave it to your consideration if it were not prudent again to seize upon all their arms, by which you will both show your care and give satisfaction that there is no such danger as some do maliciously suggest. A relation of the affairs of Fitzgerald is also expected.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, November 29, Whitehall.—I have your Grace's in answer to my Lord of Orrery's pension, and it was either a needless jealousy or something worse, I conceive, that made his relations press so earnestly for an order to your Grace. For what you wrote concerning directions for a proclamation suitable to what His Majesty had issued out here concerning the Plot, I have moved it in Council. I suppose you intended that which prefixeth a time for every man to bring in what he knoweth concerning it. It is consented to the Council, but the order not yet being come to my office I can only give your Grace notice of it. My next will bring you the order itself.

The Committee now meeteth to inspect the Bill, and I suppose it will be much in pursuance of your Grace's letter to me. The sudden and unexpected arrival of the Duke of Monmouth yesterday about two o'clock in the morning, hath given a great alarm. The King hath refused to see him, and by four or five reiterated messages commanded his return; but he hath refused. It is said (and I believe it) all his charges will be given away. On the other side the acclamation of the rabble as to bonfires have been very great and not a little disorderly. It is said though he arrived at that dead hour at his lodgings he had been three days in England. And one argument that his coming was known to some long before, copies of elaborate verses by several authors were published by eight of the clock in the morning and printed and cried in the streets. Matters seem to grow very rife and the confusion great.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, November 29, London.—How long the Duke of Monmouth hath been in town I know not; but this I do that last Thursday he sent by Captain Godfrey a letter to the King, both to acquaint His Majesty that he was returned and to beseech His Majesty's permission to kiss his hand. The King in great fury returned this answer: commanded him immediately to begone again, positively refusing to see

him. But that was what he could not, it seems, submit to ; but about two that night came to the Cockpit, and before three all the bells set a-ringing and bonfires began to be made early in the morning in several places and at night everywhere, all passengers being made to join in the rabble's prayers, who attended the fires, for Protestant Duke James. But the King, as soon as he understood his being at the Cockpit, sent my Lord Falconbridge (whose interest in the Duke of Monmouth was inferred from his having made him his Deputy Justice in Eyre in his absence) both to persuade and command his departure, and immediately, out of the King's House. The Duke urged his innocence and desired to come to his trial, that banishment was the proper badge of a malefactor. What prison soever the King should commit him to, he was ready to submit, but could not go beyond the sea without exposing of his life or (what was dearer to him) his honour : all people beyond sea looking on him as one who had fled from justice and been guilty of the greatest of crimes, plotting against King and Father both in one, and used him accordingly. This was the return Lord Falconbridge made, but that he had left the Cockpit, since the King would not permit his abode under his roof, and was gone to the Blue Mews, where he yet continues. Yesterday an express was dispatched to the Duke in Scotland to inform him, if not to recall him. However, the result we all presume will be His Royal Highness hastening hither ; and then what is next God knows. Some arraign his Grace with the double guilt of disloyalty and undutifulness, both to King and parent. Others do not only pity him, but co-suffer with him (as it were) in this hard measure, and would discriminate either Protestantism or Popery by his usage. He is certainly at the present the idol of the people. 'This nine days' wonder hath so monopolised all discourses that all other news is out of date. So may the writer be when he ceases to be the reader's in all duty and devotion.

JAC. CAROLUS to ORMOND.

1679, December 1 (December 11, N.S.). The Hague.—Here was with me Mr. Greenings, of Rotterdam, and the Chief Master of the Woollen Drapers. They are resolved to set up in Carrick. Greenings is now buying of timber for the building he means to make there. I have promised him that he shall have liberty to dig slates on your land free, and have given hopes that the Farmers will not exact any duties from the workmen for the tools and looms they bring to work with, nor their household stuff, which are old and of little value. It will be a great encouragement to them if I am empowered to assure them of this. They intend to be here by March. I am persuaded I can send a company of Brewers there if it be thought advantageous. Herein I desire your Grace's pleasure. I pray you let me here know if the concordatum

will bear the sending me any present supply, while I am about this work so profitable to the public.

Postscript.—Your pleasure I desire to receive under cover of Sir Gabriel Silvius at The Hague.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, December 2, London.—This day I had some discourse with Sir Robert Howard concerning Mrs. Nelly's pretension to some lands and houses pretended to belong to my Lord of Dungannon. I entreated him to write unto you what he thought might be said, as if you were not ready to give a just despatch unto that affair, and more, I undertook that you would give him all the satisfaction you could; which I entreat you to do, because I know the King is set on the thing, intending it as a settlement for my Lord of Burford.

I have formerly writ all that occurred to me relating to such public affairs as concern you more particularly, and have now no further trouble to give you. All the world now visits the Duke of Monmouth; but considering how affairs are between the King and him, I think it not respectful in me towards His Majesty to make that compliment.

ORMOND to MAJOR HALKETT.

1679, December 2, Dublin.—Among other complaints made here of the Mayor of Waterford one is that some of the soldiers under your command have threatened that for every one of the prisoners accused to have murdered Browne, the High Constable, that shall suffer for the same, they will have the lives of a hundred of the citizens, and tho' it may perchance be hard to find out the particular soldiers that have uttered such speeches, yet it may be requisite for you to do your endeavour to be informed of the truth thereof, and if it can be found who hath been guilty thereof we expect you should secure him or them.

Another complaint is made that the Sheriffs of the City who are to answer for the forthcoming of the prisoners to be tried for the part they are charged with, are not permitted to secure them, as all who stand accused and committed for such crimes usually are, by bolts or shackles, but that some officers have interfered to prevent it, and some soldiers have threatened to kill the said Sheriffs if they should do it. We are unwilling to believe either of the complaints in reference to the officers, presuming they better understand their duty than to meddle with prisoners in the hands of civil justices, or to interrupt civil officers in the discharge of their offices, otherwise than by application to the Government, in case they suffer their soldiers to be more rigorously dealt with than justice and duty requires. Yet we have thought fit to require you in case of any such miscarriage any officer may have been guilty of for want of knowledge in the

laws and customs of the kingdom, to let them know it is our express pleasure that they molest not the Sheriffs, but permit them to proceed with these prisoners according to their own rules and methods, and if it appear to them that any of the soldiers have been guilty of the threatenings aforesaid that they deliver them up to the civil magistrate to be dealt with as to justice shall appertain. And so we bid you farewell.

Addressed : To our trusty and well-beloved Major Halkett, or the officer-in-chief, commanding His Majesty's forces garrisoned at Waterford.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1679, December 2, London.—I had not so soon added to my last, but that before Saturday's post I hope to make an exchange from the troubles of this place to the pleasures of the country, designing to visit some friends and settle at Christmas at Hardwicke. The King hath now made good his word. He threatened the Duke of Monmouth if he did not forthwith return beyond sea he would strip him. His Mastership of the Horse continues in Commission, as it was supposed kept so for the Duke of Richmond; but since the King hath declared he shall not have it. His Lord Lieutenancy of Staffordshire either my Lord Brooke or Lord Ferrers hath, yet not known to which, but the former is believed by most to be the man. His Lord Lieutenancy of the East Riding of Yorkshire, and Government of Hull my Lord Mulgrave was prevailed with by the King to accept of, which for two reasons he seemed to decline: 1. They were feathers plucked from the King's son; 2. He probable to return into favour again, and then all must be refunded. The King's answer was, "No, he shall never be restored more" (as we hear). His Justice in Eyreship was enforced on my Lord Chesterfield, whose obedience with difficulty conquered his disinclination to accept it. And for his command of the King's troop, last night I was told that the King yesterday placed the Lord Albemarle at the head of the Hyde Park, with great harangue on the Duke's merit, and His Majesty's favour to him. We also hear (to make it a total stripping) the pension and Bedchamber place are gone also. The Duke of Monmouth continues still at his lodgings in Hedge Lane, at the Blue Mews. The crowds of visitants decrease. Many did mistake his coming over to be by virtue of His Majesty's call. Though there do not want numbers who like his Grace never the worse for it, I was told his Grace this day said he was resolved he would not stir, to convince the King of his cheerful passive obedience, be his doom never so severe, and all the world besides of his innocency, since no prosecution results from so much indignation against him.

We hear of the most splendid reception of the Duke of York in Scotland. It seems that nation set their best leg foremost. It is said the Duke will not only sit in Council there, but also give orders from time to time to all the forces there. These considerations slacken our expectations of a Parliament, and yet the determination of the additional duty of excise being at no greater a distance than Midsummer next, and being of the annual value of 300,000*l.*, revives hopes. This mysterious surprise (so in all its circumstances) hath so discharged our curiosities from all other inquiries that I am fain to end here, though I presume I shall scarce have any provocation to begin again till after Christmas at my return hither: it being the less of the two evils to say nothing than nothing to the purpose.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, December 2, Whitehall.—I have received your Grace's of the 26th of November with the account of the disorder at Waterford. I could heartily wish the town had been as punctual in giving you an account of the affair there that so we might have satisfied the people here, who will hardly believe anything but what the town and burghers acknowledge.

You will likewise receive the King's letter by order of the Council by this post, for transmitting of some more bills hither, and one particularly for removing Papists out of Parliament and all offices. We are here in great fermentation; but whether we shall boil over or no, or when, I know not.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, December 6, Whitehall.—I performed a friendship to Sir Robert Southwell the other day, much against both my inclinations and interest. He has of a long time desired to part with his place of Clerk of the Council, and chose me to speak to the King for leave to part with it; which he agreed unto in favour of one Mr. Gwyn, whom you may have often seen with Mr. Seymour, and was a member of the two last Parliaments, when they say he behaved himself very dutifully. Upon the King's declared intention of dispossessing the Duke of Monmouth of all his places, and hearing of many particulars, I spoke so early on behalf of my Lord of Chesterfield, as His Majesty was pleased to confer on him that of Justice in Eyre. The thing passed extremely well, and the King satisfied with his choice, and the other very much with the manner as well as the obligation laid upon him. I have not seen the Duke of Monmouth, though most have done it. I will prefer decency to my master to all other considerations, and I think it not consistent with that to compliment any that stands in his present circumstances. The friends of the Duke of Monmouth give it out that this journey was with the advice of the Prince of

Orange, and that he was soon to follow in order to pursue the same ends ; but since I have reason to believe that there is not any truth in this report, and I doubt not but I shall have this in an authenthical manner.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679, December 6, London.—After my allegiance to His Majesty it was made an indispensable article, that I should be an humble servant to your Grace. And upon these terms, so suitably to the rules of honour and of my own inclinations, I come to succeed Sir Robert Southwell in his employment of Clerk of the Council. His zeal for your Grace's service I shall endeavour to make my pattern, as your Grace is that great one of all good subjects. Therefore, I do with a perfect and steady resolution devote myself to your Grace's commands.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, December 7, Whitehall.—My Lord Longford parted hence yesterday with his lady, and this day was the first day of the meeting of the Committee for Irish affairs ; when the Bill of Confirmation was read, but met with no good reception. I produced your Grace's letter to me which I had exhibited once before to Sir Robert Southwell, and gave my opinion that according to what your Grace had there intimated the bill might be laid aside till the inclination of the Parliament in Ireland might be discovered. There were [some] that were of my opinion, but the more prevailing men said that it did not become us, that were but a Committee, to report to the Council, and that we laid aside a Bill of that consequence without giving any reason for it. So it was resolved the objections made by my Lord Chancellor should be read and Sir John Temple's answers, and the objections took place, and so the report will be made to the Council, not without prejudice to the Bill. My Lord Longford will give you a large account of our affairs here, which do not improve.

Postscript.—Sir Robert Southwell hath resigned his place of Clerk of the Council to Mr. Gwyn. Your Grace will miss a very faithful servant to you.

LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNCIL to HENRY COVENTRY,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE.

1679, December 9, Council Chamber, Dublin.—When His Majesty's Order in Council for prosecuting Col. John Fitzpatrick upon the information of Darby Costigan came to the hands of me, his Lieutenant, the Colonel was then, as he is still, out of the kingdom ; so that he could not be committed as was thereby required. But the said Order, immediately after it was received, was sent into the Chief Justice of the King's Bench with directions for putting the rest of the contents of it in execution. And soon afterwards

the said Chief Justice returned a certificate (a copy whereof is herewith sent you) that the crimes contained in the information being alleged to have been done in the Queen's County, the indictment for them could not be at the King's Bench, but was most properly to be at the next Assizes for that county, and that the charge was so general as an indictment could not be well framed thereupon until Costigan were further examined concerning the particular facts which he affirmed he would make out; and until he should produce other witnesses who he said would testify the same things he gave in; and that without such further evidence it was doubtful whether an indictment might be found upon his single testimony, since the greatest part thereof consisted of hearsays from others. And there the matter has stood until very lately that Costigan, after a long disappearance, notwithstanding that he had protection of this Board, and such other necessary Orders as he desired for his encouragement to go on in it, was at length brought in and carried before the Lord Chief Justice: who certified that he had denied to him all that he had said before, and therefore that he merited a most strict confinement; a copy of which certificate is here also transmitted. Afterwards he appearing again at this Board, instead of making good the particulars he at first informed of he did recant them all, declaring that there was no truth in them, and that it was a mere contrivance betwixt him and others, who had suborned and set him on in that manner to accuse the said Colonel, as may appear by the enclosed examination taken before a Committee of this Board. Upon which recantation so made by him we gave direction to prosecute him for perjury; but through the negligence of the gaoler in whose hands he was as he returned from the Committee he did make his escape and cannot be found, for which neglect the gaoler stands committed.

This is all that has happened in the affair since our first despatch to you, and receiving His Majesty's orders concerning it. And in regard the informer did not sooner return to us, an earlier account could not sooner be transmitted of it, which we desire you humbly to represent to His Majesty, and receive his directions what he will be further pleased to have done in the business.

Signed

ORMOND.

MICH. ARMACH, C., BLESSINTON, LANESBOROUGH,
R. COOTE, ARRAN, GRANARD, HEN MIDENSIS,
CA DILLON.

AUTHORITY FOR THE GUARDIANSHIP OF LORD COURCY.

1679, December 9, Dublin Castle.—Having received instruction that Mary, Lady Dowager of Kinsale died before the 29th day of September, in the year 1678, and that thereby the lands, tenements and hereditaments hereinafter mentioned,

which the said lady held and enjoyed for her jointure or dower of the estate whereof her husband Patrick Lord Baron of Kinsale died seized of, ought of right to revert and come to Almericus now Lord Kinsale, grandson and heir of the said Lord Patrick, and ought to be held and enjoyed by him the said Lord Almericus ; And His Majesty, taking notice of the great loyalty of the ancestors of the said Lord Almericus to the Crown of England, was therefore graciously pleased, as a mark of His Majesty's grace and special favour to that family, to appoint us guardian both of the person and estate of the said Lord Almericus during his minority, which charge we have accordingly taken upon us to perform ; and the said Lord Almericus having also (since his coming to the age of fourteen years) by his humble address and supplication beseeched us to continue our care both of his person and estate, which we are willing to do : To the end therefore that the estate of the said Lord Almericus may be (for the support of his person and dignity) preserved and improved : We thought fit hereby to require and command you forthwith in behalf of the said Lord Almericus and to his use to enter into all and singular the towns and lands of Old Head, *alias* Downpatrick and the island thereunto belonging, containing by estimation, one ploughland, Ballymackeine also Banenaskarty, one ploughland (except twenty acres which were formerly set out and demised to Sylvester Crosse, Esq., by the ancestor of the now Lord Kinsale) and also into the tenements of Rineroan which the said Mary, Lady Dowager of Kinsale demised during her natural life to Armiger March, and to demise and set the said lands at the highest and best rent you can for the Lord Kinsale's use : And we do require and command you from time to time during the said Lord Almericus's minority to levy, take, collect and receive to the use and behoof of the said Lord Kinsale the several and respective rents which were assigned and made over to the said lady as part of her jointure or dower, that is to say the rent of twenty pounds per annum reserved and payable out of acres and pike land by estimation seven greaves and half set by Patrick Lord Kinsale for twenty-one years to Robert Southwell, Esq. ; also the sum of twenty-nine pounds and fifteen shillings rent reserved upon part of the ploughland of Rineroan which was set by the said Patrick Lord Kinsale to Dr. Edward Worth for thirty-one years ; likewise the rent of ten shillings reserved and payable out of one acre of land in Rineroan demised by the said Lord Patrick for thirty-one years to Margery Fleming ; and likewise the sum of four pounds twelve shillings and five pence chief rent held and enjoyed by the said Lady Mary as part of her said jointure or dower. You are to return Sir Edward Scott an account of your proceedings herein from time to time, that so all possible care and industry may be used and applied to manage the estate of the said Lord Kinsale to his advantage.

Endorsed : Lord Courcy, Copy of an authority about his guardianship.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, December 10, Dublin.—I have of late received two letters from you and sent fewer to you. I think there wanted matter on both sides. You refer me to good hands for intelligence, and I in turn refer you to Mr. Secretary and Sir Robert Southwell when you would have satisfaction in things you hear objected against my conduct. The City of Waterford (the worst affected in the kingdom) and the garrison are fallen out. The Mayor and Aldermen are come almost in a body to expose their grievances. They are many, and will be found malicious in a great measure; but they shall be heard patiently and impartially. I suspect they are contrived and calculated for the unlicensed gazette and the distemper of the times, for Captain Aland is evidently a great engineer and he is instructed out of England.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679, December 12, London.—Having already prepared your Grace to expect the tender of my services, I make bold to enclose herein the two proclamations which concern the present conjuncture of affairs, and it is believed that although the violent men may the more boldly engage themselves in subscriptions, yet that the far greater part will be cautious how to provoke the Government after so fair a warning. As to the other concerning the prorogation, the discourses are various, all agreeing that His Majesty may on the 26th of this month assign (if he see cause) a shorter day for the meeting of this Parliament, or afterwards appoint a new which may meet sooner than the 11th of November. But time and the operation of busy men can only show what alteration the present council is like to have.

When His Majesty had appointed the late proclamation against the resort of Papists to this place, and enforced the same by calling the Lord Mayor and Aldermen and Justices of the Peace to recommend the effectual execution of it to their care, His Majesty thought fit to propose to the Council something of a new and extraordinary nature to manifest how remote he was from any tenderness towards the Papists, which was to recommend to a Committee of the Board the listing all the Papists of England which are of any consideration or wealth (perhaps of 200*l.* per annum and above) and then to intimate to them that in case they shall not voluntarily leave the kingdom they must expect that whatever the law has pronounced against them of forfeiting the third of their estates and twenty pounds each Sunday shall inexorably take place. And notwithstanding much was objected herein as a thing difficult of practice, yet His Majesty would not be diverted from the resolution to press it forward. And

whatever happens herein I shall be the better able to acquaint your Grace with since I am particularly appointed to attend that Committee for this affair.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, December 13, London.—I am informed that my Lord of Essex does very maliciously inveigh against the Bill of Confirmation and that of Settlement, as partial to the Irish and consequently prejudicial to the Protestant interest. His design in this is very visible, and with all his politics he cannot dissemble his desires of being again in the Government. Notwithstanding his pretended steadiness, his opinion was formerly so much against one Parliament sitting, as he now was eager for a meeting of the present one; and I have seen him as obsequious a courtier where the French interest is looked upon to be prevalent as he now endeavours for popularity. The hopes failing him of the White Staff as well as his other pretension has made him somewhat uneasy what course he should steer. His nature and principles are sufficiently understood.

Mr. Seymour that was Speaker desired me to obtain a prolongation of his brother's leave, his father being like soon to die. I doubt not but you will grant this request, since he professes to have great zeal for you, and I hope you will not scruple at my humble desires to grant him this favour. My Lord Chamberlain would write to you, but that his hand is so very full of the gout. He does believe, judging at a distance, that if it be desired, a short bill strengthening possessions and granting the residue of undisposed lands, according to the late Act, would be most to the satisfaction of the English, and the lasting good of the King's service. I can say nothing myself of the Act, never having read it. I will endeavour to inform myself of it by a breviate promised me.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, December 14, Dublin.—Among many who are said to lay their politic heads together on that side in order to asperse the Government here I saw it written that Sir Walter Plunkett is gotten and has joined himself to Sir H. Ingolsby in his cabal. I hope the information is not true, for I should be sorry to find myself so much mistaken in that gentleman, and he so forgetful of his old friend to whom he has been thought to have some more than ordinary obligation. If he visits you he may be freely told what is said of him. If he does not visit you, the matter is the more to be suspected.

HENRY THYNNE to ORMOND.

1679, December 16, London.—Mr. Secretary being seized by the gout in his right hand, and not being able to hold a pen, commands me to acquaint your Grace of his receipt of yours

of the 7th, which tells him of the seizure of Oliver Plunkett, but that you would forbear examining him till you had received His Majesty's orders. Mr. Secretary commands me to tell your Grace that he knows of no other evidence against him than what has already been sent to your Grace; but that you may (if your Grace thinks it fit) examine him upon any points that you judge most material for a further discovery.

ANONYMOUS TO OLIVER HERRING.

1679, December 19, Tanderagee.—I never had occasion since the unhappy death of Captain St. John to write unto you, and having nothing now to trouble you withal, but to acquaint you with the miserable condition this poor country is in by the Tories, so that no man can stir abroad (except he be in league with them) but in danger to be taken or killed. On Thursday last Redmond* and two more of the rogues were pursued by two young men, tenants to Madam St. John, who recovered some plundered goods and a horse from them, and the Tories in revenge came about 10 of the clock the same night and set the two young men's father's house on fire, and burnt all his house and corn, and this within a bow's shot of this town that has the name of a garrison. The soldiers here had notice of the Tories being at the poor man's house, and they kept the intelligence at the guard till the Tories were gone, under pretence that he came to betray them. And indeed it could not be otherwise expected from them, having no commanding officer among them since the company came here, and there has not been above two files of them together here this month past. And it's certain the Tories have friends and confederates enlisted in the company. I would not acquaint you with this if I had not very good ground for it. There are lately two or three of Sir Toby Poyntz's servants that have been guilty of several robberies, and some if not all were enlisted in the companies now turned Tories, and one of the men were with the villains that did this mischief here. This morning he came to me and told me he was prisoner with them. I do not write this to reflect on Sir Toby or his son, yet it is the common vogue of the discreetest people here that this country will never be free of thieves as long as the father is in the commission of the peace and the son's company here. I have heard very understanding men say that the only way to suppress these skulking scoundrels is to remove the company that is here into some remote place and another company brought whose officers have no interest in this country. The small time Captain Lyndon's company was here they did good service, and would have done more if they had not been removed. And then to have all the passes manned between the two counties of Down and Armagh, that is to say Fathom

* Redmond O'Hanlan, "The Irish Scanderbeg," see Carte's "Life of Ormond," ii., 512-13.

Castle, Tusker, Poyntz's Pass, Scarvagh and Knockbridge. All these places were manned in the Usurper's time, and then no part of Ireland so quiet as this and so free from such vermin. And all the boats from the mouth of the Lough to Knockbridge taken away, for they are of singular use to the Tories. And I am confident if you acquaint my Lord Primate with this, he is of so generous and public a spirit that he will use his endeavours to have it done. His own revenue by the decay of trade here is much damnified, many hundreds of his tenants being not able to pay their rents, and what is infinitely of more concern to one of his piety and goodness, the whole country will be ruined if he does not. I can assure you we are in so great a consternation that at night we cannot think ourselves secured until the morning, and for my own part since the death of Captain St. John I durst not go a mile from home without a guard, having had several messages sent me from the rogues that killed him that they'll serve me so too. I thought once indeed to have acquainted his Grace with these and many other circumstances, but I thought it would be too great a presumption in me to write to a person of his grandeur and eminency; so that I leave it to your own discretion whether you'll show his Grace this or not. I know many would have acquainted his Grace with these things, but they are really afraid to do it, and were it not that I know your relation and friendship for this good family, I would not have put this confidence in you as to impart this much unto you; so that I hope if you'll impart anything of what is contained in this letter to any one you'll conceal my name.

Endorsed: A letter out of the North about a company at Tanderagee.

[This letter was signed by the writer; but the signature has been erased].

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679, December 19, London.—In obedience to my duty I humbly submit an account of the proceedings of the Committee for suppressing Popery and preventing dangers that may arise from the same (which I am now employed in) to your Grace's perusal. And so considerable a progress hath been made therein that the Justices of Peace for Middlesex and Westminster have received strict orders (in pursuance of a Proclamation against Papists residing in or near London) to cause lists to be forthwith brought in to the Council Board of all housekeepers within the bills of mortality, and of all midwives, apothecaries and physicians that are Papists or suppressed Papists, in order to their effectual prosecution. And that no Papist may be harboured in Whitehall or any of His Majesty's houses, a commission is preparing for the officers of the Green Cloth to tender the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and to offer the Test to all Papists and

suspected Papists that shall be found within Whitehall or the precincts thereof, to be proceeded against according to law. And the managers and Knight Marshals' men are ordered to carry them before the said officers. And a reward of ten pounds is to be paid to any who shall discover any Papist or suspected Papist harboured in any of His Majesty's houses. And the officer by whose permission they are harboured shall be turned out of his place. The justices of the peace are likewise permitted to search Somerset House at any time in the Queen's absence, as also St. James's for priests or Papists.

His Majesty hath declared in Council his resolution not to grant any dispensations or licences to any Papists to stay in town, and to prevent the resort of all persons to the chapels of Ambassadors and foreign ministers of the Popish religion (except their menial servants). The justices of the peace are directed to impart the lists of such servants to the constables and beadles of their respective parishes, who are upon Sundays and holy days to seize all who shall be found unduly resorting thither that they be prosecuted according to law. A proclamation is likewise preparing to warn all His Majesty's subjects of the dangers they incur by being seduced to the Popish religion, and to encourage all persons to discover those that go about to seduce them or are seduced to that religion, as also such as are or have been bred in Popish seminaries and such others as shall send maintenance to them. A privy seal is passing to enable the judges to reward according to their discretions all persons that prosecute Popish recusants before them, to be paid out of the estates or forfeitures of those who shall be convicted by their prosecution. It is further ordered that all such persons as shall be imprisoned anywhere upon suspicion of being Popish priests shall be forthwith prosecuted to an attainder.

And whereas all the lists, except twelve, of the Papists and reported Papists of England and Wales were lodged in the hands of the Clerk of the House of Commons by the Knights of the Shires of their respective counties who served in the Parliament dissolved in January last, there is a Commission ordered to be issued out by the Lord Chancellor of England to all the counties of England and Wales (in which the names of the said lists are to be respectively inserted) empowering and requiring the justices of each county to tender the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy to the persons particularly named therein, and upon their refusal to proceed with them according to law: which commissions are to be accompanied not only with instructions for the directing the justices of peace, but also with letters from the Board encouraging and requiring them diligently to put the same in execution, and to return an account of their proceedings in pursuance thereof, and also to send the names of all others whom they shall know or suspect to be Papists not mentioned

in the said Commission. There also are letters written to the Knights of the Shire of the other twelve counties where the lists are wanting, to remit them to the Council Board, if the like Commissions may be prepared for those counties as is already directed.

W. BARTON to ———

1679, December 19, Carrickmacross near Dundalk.—One afternoon this week, being a hawking, a fellow gave me this enclosed, which is from a Tory now with the Hanlons. Pressed by it and by a former I had from him, he will undertake the setting two Tories at the least, if he may on doing that service have his pardon. About three weeks since, being in Dublin, I spoke to my Lord of Arran in it, who much encouraged it. This way will make them so jealous of one another that they'll soon be destroyed. I request the favour you will move my Lord Lieutenant in it, and if on that service he shall have his pardon, I desire his letter promising it and to be a protection to him for three months; that he may have time to sue out his pardon after he has done that service, if it be not done before. Before the army comes into these parts it will not be in his power to get so many of the Tories together as I hope he will on promise of a good sum of money.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1679, December 23, Whitehall.—Ever since I was in possession of the honour of your Grace's of November 8 I have been confined to my chamber by a severe fit of the gout, and until now could never make use of my right hand to acknowledge the said letter, the contents of which being a good (though not satisfactory) answer to my Lord Privy Seal and me, I presently acquainted his lordship with it, desiring him (who had pressed me with much earnestness to write to your Grace) to enable me to reply, but yet he hath not done it. So I now singly apply myself to your favour to beseech you at least singly to endeavour my satisfaction from the Earl of Ranelagh, if it cannot be done in conjunction. Upon which subject my Lord of Longford will do me the favour to entertain your Grace.

Sir John Trevor foreseeing the Parliament here will not sit suddenly, and being to pass over into Ireland where he thinks a Parliament will quickly be, desires me to mind your Grace again of getting him elected a member therein, upon the assurance that he shall be able to serve His Majesty and your Grace, which undoubtedly he is able to do, being of the first form of those who are so qualified.

Having got thus far with my pen, I will not defer the giving your Grace my humble thanks for the favour of yours of November 12, with a sufficient certificate of the benefit

of the gout socks, but unluckily the author forgot to put in what the socks are made of. This Sir Nicholas Armorer was able to tell me, and really the stuff has recovered my hand to the perfection your Grace sees, but yet it hath not done so to my feet, which, though carefully stocked with it, continue their pain and my lameness. If it please God I live till the spring I promise myself great benefit by the milk diet, of which I have daily several proofs in my eye.

I cannot end my letter without lamenting to your Grace the good success Sir Robert Southwell's friends had in procuring His Majesty's leave for him to sell his place, in which your Grace as well as they has a considerable loss. My Lord of Ossory will not let me write any more, but to make his excuses to you for his not writing this post. I tell him I do it willingly, because I assure myself you will thank me for it.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, December 23, Whitehall.—My gout, which hath been more frequently troublesome to me than any winter I can remember, is the occasion I am indebted to your Grace for letters of the 30th of November and 7th and 10th of this instant. As to the first there hath been a second attempt upon the Park by a warrant from my Lord Sunderland's office. But I having your Grace's letter showed it to the King and acquainted him how that by Order of Council directions were gone to your Grace to make the annexing it to the Sword subject matter of a bill for the next Parliament, and so carried his orders to my Lord Chancellor for stopping all further progress in it. And my Lord Chancellor assured me, and bids me acquaint your Grace with it, that he would not pass it upon any warrant whatsoever without first acquainting the Council with it, where I think it can never meet with approbation.

As to your Parliament you must have patience till the trouble of these Petitions are over, and the meeting or not meeting of one here quite out of doubt. As to that about Plunkett, Mr. Thynne by reason of my sickness informed your Grace all that I can say of it. We have nothing since or more of it than what I wrote you formerly of it; so that unless his papers discover some further grounds I doubt little will be got from him. But if your Grace think fitting to try him with any questions, it is left to your discretion and may possibly have the effect of making him believe we know more than we do, and beget some fear of continuing such kind of negotiations. And his very being in Ireland after the proclamation may sufficiently justify imprisonment, and if need be a further prosecution. That of the 10th hath been showed His Majesty and shall the Council as soon as they meet, which cannot be for some days because of the holidays. The Orders set out this week by the Council here are with the utmost severity against Catholics, which I hear hath

already some good effects with some men. But I doubt whether any water will quench the flame of the rabble.

I am sorry your Grace hath that troublesome inconvenience of sore eyes. For my part I see so few pleasing objects here that I have little pleasure in the use of mine. I pray God yours may serve you to see many and better days than we have now.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679, December 24, Dublin.—I have yours of the 6th and 13th of this month. Whatever I lose by it I cannot be sorry that Sir Robert Southwell has compassed his design. Whilst he is there his information will be little less useful than when he was in office. The rule you have set yourself in relation to your master and whoever is in his displeasure upon the score the person you mention is, I fully approve of. Nothing can be more maliciously perverse and disingenuous than the proceeding of the nobleman you mention in the Committee of Irish affairs, for he has for six months had in his hands a letter from me that alone would have vindicated me in the reflection cast upon the Bill of Confirmation, which reflection is in itself groundless, and the bill would be justified before equal judges upon a fair hearing and reasonable construction. However, it has been my opinion from the beginning that it should be mended there or wholly laid aside till the meeting of the Parliament; but my misfortune is that some of those I writ to were not willing to produce anything that tended to my justification; and others had forgot they had such letters. You may assure Sir Robert Howard that Mrs. Gwin's business concerning Dundalk and Carlingford is done as far as it depends on me, and beg his pardon for me that I do not at this time give him an account of it myself. Captain Seymour shall have leave to stay in England as long as his brother pleases.

ORMOND to FRANCIS GWYN.

1679, December 24, Dublin.—Yours of the 6th of this month informs me in a very obliging manner of your coming into Sir Robert Southwell's room in the King's more immediate service, and the particular advantage I receive by gaining one and not losing another worthy friend. I embrace the offer and profession you are pleased to make of your friendship, which I shall no longer expect you should continue to me than whilst you find me in all events steady to the service of the Crown and just in my returns to you. To your letter of the 12th imparting transactions on that side you will expect no other answer than my thanks, and yet I shall pray the continuance of such informations, because they do not merely divert, but often guide me in my station. I will give order that you shall be constantly informed of all that shall pass

here of moment. For what has passed nobody can better inform you than Sir Robert Southwell, and I hope you will be appointed to attend the Committee for the affairs of this kingdom constantly, which I conceive will more facilitate despatch than that your fellows should take their turns, and be put to spend a good part of their quarter in looking over and understanding what passed in the former. If I shall give this as my opinion to Mr. Secretary, I know not whether I am to ask yours or your brethren's pardon for it. Sir Robert Southwell is caution for the performance of your part and the friendship he has contracted betwixt us, so let him be for me that I shall on all occasions be, etc., etc.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679, December 31, Whitehall.—As to what your Grace writeth me in yours of the 24th there are several of the kingdom of Ireland come over that say that Bill of Settlement is passed for the advantage of the Papists and the lawyers; but I can see no answer to your argument that it was always to be left to the judgment of the Parliament, and it is not very likely either of these motives should prevail with them. This I have not failed to urge both in public and private.

But, my Lord, I must acquaint your Grace here is much notice taken that the articles upon which the Earl of Tyrone was committed, though some time since promised, are not yet sent over. 2ndly, that there is no account of the retaking of him that accused Fitzpatrick, or by whose fault or neglect he escaped, and why that fault not punished. 3rdly, why the account of my Lord Ranelagh, so long since transmitted from the Commissioners to the Council, should lie so still there, and no account given of them. This as all things at present hath its reflections. As to your postscript, I should be very glad that there were a particular Clerk to attend that Committee; but I doubt it will be hard for one never versed in any business of that nature to understand it so readily, but am very glad that your Grace is so well satisfied in the affections of the gentleman whose education, conversation and obligations have been amongst those your Grace hath not hitherto had so much reason to confide in. But whatever your Grace shall judge best shall be complied in faithfully by me.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679, December 30, London.—Both Mr. Secretary and I are in great impatience to have the examinations you told him you had transmitted concerning my Lord of Tyrone. I doubt not that all diligence is used to search into the truth of that matter, as it is necessary that it should be manifest to the world the care that is taken, since my Lord of Shaftesbury and many others indicate the contrary.

This enclosed I received from the person* we thought proper to entrust with the care of my son. If you judge him not fit for it, I wish he may have some reward. Neither my Lord Chamberlain nor myself have entertained him as he pretends, by which you may perceive he thinks himself in salary; but we told him that when James was in France, which he thought would have been sooner than it is like to be, that then he should begin his functions, so that these hopes have prevented him engaging himself elsewhere. For his son, I promised to get him an employment in Ireland. If either a cornet's place or a lieutenant of horse could be obtained for him I should be very glad; for by the character given of him you cannot have a stouter, better officer, and a better drudge. The use of such a man you know better than I do and how few there are of this kind; pride and laziness being so much the temper of these nations.

As in a letter Plunkett seems much afflicted that any should be so unjust as to give you misinformations of him, I believe they do him wrong. You will from himself receive satisfaction in this matter. Sir Richard Rooth humbly entreats you, if it consists with the service of your pleasure, to order his company to continue at that fort near Kinsale which he commands. I was informed (*sic*) that he should have said things contrary to that duty he professes to have for you, but as he denies anything even to have thought of that kind, so truly I think him very friendly to all your relations and concerns. This is all the trouble I shall at present give you.

LORD JAMES BUTLER to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 1, Oxford.—Since I hear that it is your Grace's desire that I should not go to London this Christmas, I am very well content to stay here as long as your Grace pleases; and I will readily and cheerfully, as I do now, so at all times conform and resign myself to your Grace's good will and pleasure. I most humbly thank your Grace for the promise of a fine horse in the spring, and for the good present your Grace will make me. I will by my obedience and my diligence endeavour to my utmost to deserve and to draw upon me that blessing which I earnestly beg of your Grace in this beginning of the year.

SIR WILLIAM BOREMAN to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 3, Whitehall.—May it please your Grace to call to remembrance that about seven or eight years since you were pleased to recommend me to give you a note of the profits and perquisites belonging to the Lord Steward's place in the reigns of King James and King Charles the First, which amounted to 3,100*l.*, besides the disposal of places, as by the enclosed papers it doth appear. In the beginning of this

* Mons. de St. Helène.

King's reign it amounted not to half so much, and now (by virtue of this new retrenchment) it is dwindled to less than a quarter part, being reduced to 600*l.* per annum, viz., 100*l.* and 500*l.* board wages; and the daily pains and constant attendance of the two [Classes] of the Green Cloth, and the two Classes comptrollers are valued, or rather undervalued at 200*l.* a year.

NOTE REFERRED TO IN FOREGOING LETTER.

In the Reigns of King James and King Charles the First of blessed memory.

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| The Lord Steward of His Majesties most Honourable Household had a hundred pound wages, and a diet served in kind, consisting of sixteen dishes of meat a meal, with a proportionable allowance of bread, beer and wine, which after the rate of the market price came yearly to the sum of | } 2648 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> |
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| The wood, coals and lights, spices, butter and eggs, linen and all other necessities incident to the dressing and serving up of the said diet, together with the Lord Steward's double messes and commands did <i>communibus annis</i> amount to the yearly sum of | } 351 <i>l.</i> 14 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> |
| | |

Sum total .. 3100*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*

And for the pleasuring of his friends and preferment of his servants, he had twice as many places to dispose of than the present Lord Steward hath, and each of those places were almost twice the value.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 6, London.—I have according to your commands solicited His Majesty in behalf of those you would have preferred by the vacancy of the bishopric of Derry; all which was granted, and I believe letters to that purpose will be despatched to you this night. I have heard much good of the Bishop of Killala; but I know not how liable it may be to censure to prefer a clergyman that was so indiscreet and violent as to make a Tory's head be cut off in his house when brought in a prisoner. My Lord of Essex told me the story, and though he said many things of the person's merit, yet he is capable to leave out that part as occasion may offer. This action, though universally known, I was ignorant of till very late. I think it worthy of your consideration whether you will proceed upon the King's commands or not. Perhaps this particular may not have come to your knowledge. The King spoke freely enough of persons recommended by the Bishop of London; and I believe his recommendation as to any to be preferred in

Ireland will be of little force. I wish Dr. Young that was in Flanders with me were preferred in Ireland. He is an extraordinary pious man, and an excellent preacher. He is an Oxford man, and very well reputed in the University.

SAME to SAME.

1679-80, January 6, London.—I have since the writing of my letter of this day's date spoke to some of your best friends concerning the promotion of the Bishop of Killala, and they are all of opinion that appearing for this unhappy prelate, (who I term so since he could do so exorbitant a thing as without law to execute a man) cannot but hereafter be of great prejudice to you, it being no way justifiable for a private man to kill one outlawed, unless the malefactor did make resistance. I confess I have a horror for a man in holy orders that has imbrued his hands in blood, and among many omissions I thought it a very great one to see another of that function to remain in it since the King's restoration. I wish we may not feel the ill effects of that error. I do not in the least make a comparison of the guilt of these two persons. My Lord of Essex said the pardon of that fact was not done when he was in the Government. I doubt not but you will pardon my being warm upon this.

HENRY THYNNE to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 10, Whitehall.—Finding that Mr. Secretary in his letter of this post has given your Grace an account of the views we have here, I presume to trouble your Grace with that little we have, which is the commitment of Sir Robert Peyton a close prisoner to the Tower for High Treason for conspiring to raise war against the King, which is testified against him by two witnesses, viz., Mr. Gadbury and Mrs. Cellier. The particulars are so variously reported that I cannot vouch for the truth of them; but it's generally said that Sir Robert is accused of having said that if the King had died at Windsor, he would have been ready with forty thousand men to have risen and seized upon the Tower, the Lord Mayor, etc. Our last letters from Holland seem to think the States will civilly decline the entering into an alliance with France, and I believe will hardly be brought to make one with us, but will rather keep as they are to disoblige neither party. It's thought a Common Council will be called speedily in the City to petition for the sitting of the Parliament on the 26th.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 17th, London.—Having had several promises to be set upon the establishment in Holland, according to my articles, and the death of Prince Maurice of Nassau giving so easy an opportunity of doing me justice without a new fund, I have desired my leave, I think in sufficient

style. As for the humble part relating to the Prince of Orange, who I really believe has found himself mistaken when he gave me his word to see me have right done, if upon what I say my pretensions are satisfied then I continue and no harm is done. I have sometimes displeased you by engaging myself too suddenly; I hope I shall not do so now by withdrawing, having His Majesty's consent and the advice of my friends. What comes of this matter and anything else I think important I shall not fail to communicate it unto you.

My Lord of Essex makes it his work to catch hold of anything that may prejudice you, especially in what relates to the late Irish Bill. His party blames the flightiness of your answer, which when objections to several paragraphs were made all the returns were that here they may be impeded or thrown out. I find my Lord of Burlington very kind to you, though some would inflame him because his name was not inserted, nor the Treasurer's, which they say is of course in most commissions. It is also said that Sir Nicholas Plunkett made the first draught of that Bill. I would be glad to have the denial of this from you, tho' at present I doubt not the falsity of that report.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 17, Whitehall.—Mr. Thomas and Henry Howard, brothers to the Earl of Suffolk, tell me there was a letter in the time of Lord Berkeley signed by the King and sent to him in their behalf for a patent for the Ballast. It then found some obstructions from the town of Dublin, but they now tell me that that difference is in a fair way of composure. But the letter being addressed to my Lord Berkeley, they desire a fresh one to your Grace. I made them answer I could obtain no letter of that kind till I had first some approbation from your Grace. If your Grace please to receive the information of those that will wait on you in their behalf, and upon your approving of their pretences send such a letter as you judge fitting for His Majesty's signature, I shall give it all despatch I can.

THOMAS DAWSON to CAPTAIN JOHN CHICHESTER, GEORGE WALKER and MATHEW COMBE.

1679-80, January 17, Castledawson.—The necessity I now lie under to be quiet forces me, beyond my humour, to decline my former resolutions and practices in pursuing of Tories. I have not been a little active in discovering those rogues who were at Captain Shaw's robbery, and have given money for intelligence, by which means I really believe I should have broke the knot of them in time. There were two taken, and were as far on their journey to Carrickfergus as Shane's Castle, where by the wilful neglect of a bribed

constable they made their escape and are now returned to their old haunts with an intention to cut off my head; and for that end have got most of the Tories of this county to join with them, accusing me to be more officious than my fellow-justices; and this is the reward I am like to rest with: so that I leave you to judge whether or no I am not in hazard that can't go a quarter of a mile from home because of their continual watch of me; neither should I fear them on any account if they had not sent me word that no guard could secure me, for as I rid they could single me out with a gun and make their escape afterwards. Let not this discourage the good work you are about, for there is less hazard with you than here, so that you may with less danger prosecute their insolency.

EARL OF OSSORY to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1679-80, January 20, London.—I am very sorry to hear that you are troubled with the shortness of breath. I hope in God the spring coming on that you will soon be rid of that distemper, and my father of his fit of the gout. If affairs be in a proper posture for me to leave this place, I will endeavour to have the happiness of waiting on you before it be long. I sent yesterday my secretary into Holland with leave to resign my command there, so as I shall have more leisure to myself. This resolution I hope will not be unacceptable unto you, since it will free me both from dangers and expense, if the King of France pursues his threatenings against the Hollanders. The good news of the proceedings of the city you will hear from several hands. This day brings strange news from France. Madame la Comtesse de Soissons, la Duchesse de Bouillon, Madame de la Perte and several more are fled, being accused about poisoning affairs. Monsieur de Luxemburgh and our friend Lessae upon the same score are prisoners in the Bastille. Having thus long deferred the compliments you mentioned, I think it not proper now to make them, but to expect some other opportunity. I pray God continue my father and you in long health and happiness.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 24, London.—I am desired to send you over this note.* I know not how you were engaged to oblige Mr. Sheldon, nor how you can pay safely this money, I promised to use my endeavours towards you for the satisfaction of my Lady Elizabeth Felton, and I hope you will be pleased to comply with them, that if it may be in your power she may have the effects of her father's kindness.

* A note is enclosed of a debt due by the Duke of Ormond to one Jasper Churchill upon a bond dated Aug. 29, 1677, of £721 0s. 0d. principal and 285 15s. 0d. interest, which bond having been assigned to the Earl of Suffolk had been given to Lady Elizabeth Felton.

The sooner I know your pleasure the more obliging it will be to them.

I am told my Lord Chief Baron Byasse of the Exchequer is dead, but have not heard it from any of your secretaries. I have often desired that one of them would constantly give me an account of what passes. I am sure it would not prejudice your service if it would not prove useful thereunto. Besides I am ashamed to make my ignorance of those things appear by making of enquiries. I am sorry you have had so severe a fit of the gout: I hope it will soon pass over, and that by it you will have a more established health for the future.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 24, Whitehall.—Since my last to your Grace here hath nothing arrived worth troubling you; only give me leave to acquaint you that as I told you in my last the King had given no positive answers about the promotions in case my Lord Chief Baron die. I find since there is a design to send one from hence. The person is not yet resolved, but he is to be one of the lawyers that are most versed in the Exchequer. I find by something that fell from His Majesty that the management of his Court of Exchequer in Ireland is not represented very advantageously, and it is said that most of the places are executed by deputies. The sending of a Chief Baron from hence is much pressed by the Earls of Anglesey and Essex, who seem to lay extreme weight upon it; and the latter told me the present Lord Chief Baron, though he acknowledged him a very good lawyer, yet by not being sufficiently skilled in the rules of the Exchequer that His Majesty hath been endamaged many thousand pounds.

Monday will be our critical day, His Majesty seeming still resolved the Parliament shall not sit; neither hath he yet declared his resolution for shortening the time of the prorogation. Our fears and jealousies are as high as ever—I pray God they produce not such effects as they once did.

EARL OF OSSORY to PRINCE OF ORANGE.

1679-80, January.—J'ay reçu avec une satisfaction extrême la très obligeante lettre qu'il a plu à votre Altesse de m'écrire du 16^{me} de ce mois N.S. Ce sera mon ambition, toute ma vie de rendre tous les services dont je seray capable à la famille royale, et j'espère que cette union si nécessaire aux intérêts de chacun sera toujours maintenue. Voyant les peines et les difficultés que l'affaire de mes appointements donne à votre Altesse je luy supplie très humblement d'accepter ma demission, afin que je ne vous sois plus un sujet d'embarras. Le profit n'est pas le cause de cette demande que je fais avec toute soumission; mais

je croirais que mon honneur pourroit partir par une marque si singulière d'estre le seul Officier-General de Paris à qui en ne donne pas de gages. Permettez moy à présent de réclamer la justice et la parole de vostre Altesse lorsqu'elle me donne une capitulation qui fut ; qu'en cas que je ne pourrois avec bienséance estre dans les Troupes qu'en les quittant je ne perdrois pas le bonheur de vostre bienveillance, que je prize si fort, espérant que dans la fonction de ma charge on ne trouvera pas que j'aye manqué à faute de zèle ou bonne volonté. Pour ce qui regarde la capacité je ne me justifie pas ; mais j'ay recour à vostre bonté. Je suis autant persuadé qu'on le puisse estre que votre Altesse m'auroit fait justice, si cela auroit pû convenir avec les inclinations des Estats, et par consequent auroit esté en vostre pouvoir ; ainsi je proteste qu'en prenant mon congé d'eux je suis satisfait au dernier point en ce qui regarde votre Altesse pour l'aumone de qui je me suis engagé, et mes actions témoigneront la verité de cecy, aussi bien que la vénération et affection très sincères avec lesquelles je seray à jamais de Votre Altesse le très-humble et très obéissant serviteur.*

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 27, London.—Upon my coming to town last night I received the honour of your Grace's favourable reception of the tender of my services which I have entirely devoted to your Grace. And although with great submission I must acknowledge my want of experience, and a great many other good qualifications which my predecessor was master of might render him more capable, yet I must beg pardon to vie with him in a steady resolution and ready obedience to your Grace's commands.

I most humbly thank your Grace for the good opinion you have been pleased to entertain of me in designing me to attend the Committee of Irish Affairs. I have already waited upon my Lord of Ossory to beg the favour of his discoursings with Mr. Secretary Coventry in order to it, and I hope in a little time to give your Grace a farther account, being very ambitious of being employed in an affair where I may more frequently expect your Grace's directions and commands.

I cannot give your Grace as yet any perfect account of the proceedings, but I find there hath very little been done (except giving out orders) since the last I presented to your Grace in the Committee for Suppressing Popery, the Commissions to the several counties being yet in hand, and not perfected till there is a regulation made of the Justices of the Peace in each county, which is likewise now under consideration. I have enclosed His Majesty's speech upon the prorogation of the Parliament, and the success and answers to the petitions from several places, your Grace will meet from other hands. The arrival of His Highness suddenly out

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

of Scotland is much talked of, and there seems some ground for it. By the next I shall be able to give your Grace a more perfect account of the proceedings of Council.

EARL OF LANESBOROUGH to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, January 28, Dublin Castle.—His Grace's hand continuing still so lame that he cannot write to you himself, he hath commanded me to tell your lordship that he hath received your several letters by the last packets, and thinks it necessary you receive some account of that of the seventeen wherein he received the copies of the Prince of Orange's letter to you and your answer, of which latter he absolutely approves and will be glad to know what it hath produced. As to the exceptions taken against the Irish Bill that was transmitted for the settlement of Ireland, since that Bill is now absolutely laid aside there can be no reason for continuing those exceptions, but a malicious purpose to reflect on those that transmitted it, and perhaps when the Parliament shall meet in England some use may be endeavoured to be made of that Bill to argue a partiality towards the Irish Papists by it, against which it may be fit that some preparation be made by putting the answers that have been made to those objections into the hands of some persons that may be able and willing to make use of them. There were two papers of objections put into the hands of the Lord Chancellor of England; the one sent over by the late Earl of Orrery, and the other by some persons in England, alike concerned with him in interest and malice. Of those objections copies were sent to my Lord and answers to them were returned to my Lord Chancellor, from whom it's supposed, copies of them may be had by means of Sir Robert Southwell or Sir Edward Dering; and in them are contained all that can be said upon the subject, unless new objections be made which cannot be foreseen nor answered till they are seen.

Copy.

EARL OF LANESBOROUGH to SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

1679, January 28, Dublin.—I am commanded by my Lord to tell you that he hath received at once your letters of the 10, 13, 17 and 20th, and that having forced himself to write to Mr. Secretary Coventry he hath so lamed his hand that he cannot now write his name, whereat he is the more troubled that he cannot tell you himself as I do by his direction that there are few things wherein he is more concerned than your satisfaction in your affair of Rincorran, which cannot be effected in the way projected by Sir James Shaen, who has forgot or was not informed by his partners that during the winter season no money is advanced towards the work of the fort, but some small sum for raising of stones for it against the spring, so that it is conceived Sir James by his insignificant proposal only designed to

divert you from following the more prebable course. Now as to the 12,000*l.*, his Grace is informed by some who are better skilled in that matter than himself that it belongs rather to the King than to either the Earl of Ranelagh or his partners or the present Farmers. But when his Grace shall have received Sir James Shaen's deductions, which he desires may be in writing, he will be the better able to frame a letter to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury concerning that business. I have nothing to add but that my Lord Chief Baron died this morning.

Copy.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, January 31, London.—The last Council Day His Majesty was pleased to declare the reasons of sending leave to the Duke to return again into England. And the same day the yachts were ordered to sail to Scotland, that if his Highness please he may come by water, though it is generally believed he will be here before the yachts can be there and return.

There was a petition brought in the last Council Day by one Robert Coppinger complaining against the Lord Chancellor of Ireland's proceedings in a cause before his lordship in the Court of Chancery, which is referred to your Grace's determination, though it was stiffly pressed by some to have it heard here.

The Committee for regulation of the Justices of the Peace in the several counties is to sit on Monday morning and afternoon, intending to perfect all the counties that day, which they are the more diligent in because the commissions to the several counties for tendering the oaths of allegiance and supremacy cannot be despatched into the respective counties till the regulation of the justices is made.

The honour of your Grace's recommendation engaged Mr. Secretary Coventry to promise me his assistance and endeavours to get me nominated to attend the Committee for Ireland, which I shall employ with all the industry I am capable of.

EARL OF ARRAN to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679-80, January 31, Dublin.—My Lord Lieutenant is not yet so well recovered as to be able to write himself this post. He has yours of the 24th instant where you inform him of His Majesty's purpose to send us a Chief Baron from thence to succeed ours who died about three days since. You may please to remember that it was his desire by my last letter that in case none of the persons he recommended should be pitched upon a fit person should be sent from England. The truth is the business of that Court is not very well managed now, and has been worse, as my Lord of Essex very well knows. But the fault was not so much the insufficiency

of the late Lord Chief Baron as the great power given my Lord Ranelagh and partners in controlling that Court. This with the reducing of the officer's fees which happened then might make them more negligent than formerly; all which a person well versed in Exchequer proceedings there may remedy, in case the course taken in that Court may be found practicable with us. His Grace is not so much concerned for any person recommended as he is that the King's affairs should be well managed in that Court, though he believes one of them might be as fit for the place as any either my Lord Privy Seal or my Lord Essex will recommend.

FRANÇOIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 3, London.—I know your Grace hath received the news of the Lord Russell, Lord Cavendish, Sir Henry Capel, and Mr. Powle's withdrawing themselves from the Council, and the unprecedented way they took to do it. It was generally believed the Marquess of Winchester and Earl of Essex would do the same thing, though not the same way, though I hear nothing of it to-day. It is supposed the Lord Brouncker will succeed Sir Henry Capel in the First Commissioner's place of the Admiralty, and Sir Thomas Littleton Mr. Vaughan in the same Commission, tho' I perceive it is endeavoured the commission should consist of the five remaining, and by that means Mr. Finch would come into the Council. It is said Mr. Godolphin will fill up the place of one of the Council, and the Lord Ailesbury is spoke of for another. The Committee for regulation of the Justices of Peace sat yesterday morning and afternoon, both which times His Majesty was present, but have not yet perfected the lists of several counties.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 3rd, Whitehall.—Your Grace's of the 27th of January I have received, and as in my first letter I told you I thought the order defective, so I obtained another which Mr. Thynne telleth me he sent by the next post, where I think it was clearly explained and there was a passage in one of your Grace's letters that it was indifferent to you if the Bill of Settlement stayed till the Parliament met, and there it would plainly appear what kind of bill would content. I can say little of the bill myself, it having been in the hands of my Lord Chancellor and the lawyers ever since it was first sent, but it was so vehemently opposed in Council that there was no contesting for it, and particularly those that pretended to love Ireland best; and some that were not contented with the setting it aside were very eager that reasons for the setting it aside should be drawn up, amongst which was the great advantage it gave the Papists over the Protestants. Another reason is much pressed by several that are come over from Ireland, who say it serveth only the interest of

the Papists and lawyers. I then acquainted the Council how indifferent your Grace was in the point, and it was thought fit to draw up the order that it should for the present be totally laid aside. But upon any notice when the Parliament meets what your Grace and the Council findeth by the temper of the Parliament will be agreeable, upon your intimation of it to His Majesty and Council there will be easily leave obtained for transmitting another.

You will by this time have received the news that four Privy Councillors, Lord Russell, Lord Cavendish, Sir Henry Capel and Mr. Powle, came in a body to the King to desire to be dismissed from that employment. Their entry and exit have been both very remarkable, and neither very well comprehended by men of my small talent. We are full of fear and jealousies, and the effects of those passions. His Majesty on the other side seemeth as resolved. The Duke and Duchess are suddenly expected here if the bad weather hinder them not. The two letters from your Grace and Council shall be showed His Majesty in Council tomorrow.

EARL OF OSSORY to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1679-80, February 3, London.—Just now I received your letter of the 27th of the last month, and am very glad to hear my father is recovered from his fit of the gout, and that you are also in good health. I wish that blessing may be long to you both. I presume to send you my servant's letter that I sent into Holland, by which you will now in what fortune that affair as yet remains, as also one from honest Silvius who concerns himself much in all things relating to us. Sir Alexander Colear that commanded those troops under me died lately, as you will find by those letters. He was the worthiest friend to me, and I think the best officer of that kind that ever I knew. The Prince receives by it an extraordinary loss and I an irreparable one if I should continue in the service. All your family here are well: my sister only has sprained her foot. I have nothing more to trouble either my father or you withal. Of all sorts of news the Gazettes do sufficiently inform the world.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 7, London.—Mr. Secretary Coventry intending to resign his place of Secretary to Sir Lionel Jenkins, and Mr. Henry Thynne, as I hear, resolving to appear no more in public business hath made me take the confidence to recommend myself to your Grace's favour for agent of the affairs of Ireland, it falling into your Grace's hands by their dissension: which I am the more encouraged to do, since I hope for an attendance upon the Committee for Ireland by the nomination of Mr. Secretary Coventry before his resignation. If your Grace for the conveniency of affairs is pleased to think fit to lay an obligation upon any one

in my Lord Sunderland's office or any other, I do with all cheerfulness submit myself to your Grace's pleasure in it.

Here are several discourses of other alterations in some of the great offices of State, that is my Lord [] being to be made Lord Treasurer, Mr. Godolphin, Secretary, and some others, but they are so uncertain I cannot with any confidence trouble your Grace with them. There was little further business done the last Council Day, Mr. Finch and Mr. Godolphin being then sworn into the Council and no others yet spoken of to fill up the places of those that went off.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 7, Whitehall.—I have delivered the two letters from your Grace and Council unto the Council here. That concerning the ship taken from the Turks was read, but nothing yet ordered. That concerning the Plot and the examinations is referred to the Committee. But only let me make this observation to your Grace that there being an information of so great a treason as the aiding a French invasion that the Council of Ireland that was so scrupulous in the case of the Talbots and others as not to bail them, though never so rich, without acquainting the Board here, it is a thing divers here seem surprised at to see that all the men accused of the plot are allowed their liberties upon bail. Mr. Thynne, I suppose, by the last acquainted you that two ships are immediately going to take in your men for Tangier, which I suppose are by this time ready at Kinsale. I suppose I may very shortly acquaint you with the name of a new Secretary, His Majesty having at last consented to my retreat. But the whole of the affair is not as yet concluded, but I suppose within few days will, and I think Sir Lionel Jenkins will be the man.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 7, London.—The winds are so stormy and contrary to come from Holland as since my last I know not anything of what has passed in my concerns in that country. The same crossness of weather hinders the yachts from getting to Leith and consequently the return of the Duke. Yesterday I was informed for certain by Mr. Seymour that my Lord of Anglesey is to be made Chancellor of Ireland. He did enjoin our secrecy to all persons but you; and I did undertake that it should never be spoke of until it were otherwise divulged, and that the information should not come to the knowledge of any. I doubt not but you make good what I have undertaken. In the meantime I will do all I can to serve so worthy a friend and so honest and loyal a man as my present Lord Chancellor has been towards you and your friends. I will not be negligent in things wherein I may be useful.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 10. London.—The resignation of Mr. Secretary Coventry of his office to Sir Lionel Jenkins (which I gave your Grace an account of by the last) is now no longer whispered but owned on both sides, and to-morrow being the next Council day it is expected Sir Lionel Jenkins should be sworn into the Council.

On Sunday in the evening came an express from Tangier which brought the news of their apprehension there of another attack from the Moors, whereupon Sir Palmes Fairborne is sent over to be Lieutenant Governor in the room of Colonel Dungan, who is recalled, and leave given to the Lord Inchiquin to return home upon the arrival of Sir Palmes Fairborne there. The King intends his journey to Newmarket on the 12th of the next month. The removal of Sir Robert Atkins from the Bench I know your Grace hath heard, and the reason is said to be for his too publicly giving countenance to the petitions for the sitting of the Parliament. There is a flying report that Sir William Ellis and Mr. Justice Pemberton are like to have the same fate, which I cannot tell the certainty of.

LADY INCHQUIN to the EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, February 11. The Hague.—I not having heard whether my last letter directed from hence to Dublin (the week after you went thither) has had the good fortune to be received by your lordship, I do again renew your trouble to let you see no distance can secure you from my inquiries and good wishes. Your charitable concern for me in my affliction is as impossible for me to forget as to acknowledge the sense I have of your favours, which encourage me to complain to your lordship that the distinction daily appears greater between those that are in favour and those that most endeavour to be so, or at least to deserve it. By this time I hope you have recovered your memory that you are my Lord of Ossory which here you had almost forgot, which you know was no small disturbance of mine. Mrs. Bentinck being with child, I am the only and constant waiter, for she has kept her chamber these two months and will most of her time; so you may judge my life, for the moment I have dined, the Princess goes to take the air till six o'clock, and three or four times a week to the French plays, which I am very weary of, and after that waiting till eleven o'clock. In short, I am with some reason very weary with this kind of life, and more so being from my Lord and friends, or indeed in a country where I may but too truly say I have not one, though I must really own great civility from all my good Lady Ossory's family, to which I shall ever own the truth of my being a very humble servant to them. Our Excellency has not yet made his entry at Paris, but thinks of doing it soon and at the same time take his leave. We have a strange

report of his having lost above 2,000 pistoles at play, but I hope it as false as most of our news is here.

When Mrs. Bentinck will wait, I have got leave to visit my friends at London and so to Tangiers, where I hope to pass next winter. This is the hardest and coldest that they say has been in twenty years; it's so uncreditable to tell you how many has died with cold or lost their eyes or joints, that I dare not name it. It now snows and freezes as if it was the first of winter; the sea at Squiffland is frozen as far as we can see, and hundreds of people walking on it every day. A month is the farthest my mistress has to reckon (if with child). It's with trouble I suspect it not so, but having the Doctors, my Aunt Howard, Mrs. Langford, and other sort of skilful women against my doubtful opinion, I dare not publicly own it, but ever shall in all places and companies the truth of being very much your lordship's servant. The chief arant of this is to tell you, as I did in my last, the treaty between the Marquis' son and my cousin is off, and that if you again design what I wish well to, I humbly and affectionately offer the service of, etc.

Postscript—My Aunt Howard according to my desire is made governess, all servants for that employment taken and all things provided. Since my poor girl's death I have changed my lodgings, which is now for the nursery, and I lie in that which was the chapel, which is now within the guard-chamber with a closet.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

Last night I was informed that my Lords of Essex, Russell and Cavendish, together with Mr. Powell, did intend to leave being Councillors. Talking with the King upon this subject this morning he told me that once they had resolved it, but that they had changed their minds. He spoke very contemptuously to me of the thing and them. The first of these lords is never wanting in doing you all the ill offices he can, and upon your recommending Gascoigne's son to the reversion of an office, the King signed it very unwillingly, saying that all offices in Ireland were in the hands of fools or children and executed by others deputed. The affair of the Chief Baron is not yet decided. I look upon it as a matter of that consequence as I think it not safe to appear in promoting of any unto it, unless I were morally certain of the ability and fidelity of the person. I think it my duty to inform you of every little thing, that, when you see the malice of your enemies, and in what they endeavour your prejudice, you may be the better able to defend yourself from them.

[*Undated, but endorsed* Received 12th Feb., 1679-80.]

HENRY COVENTRY to [EARL OF ARRAN].

1679-80, February 14. Whitehall.—Your lordship's of the 31st January I have received and am very sorry my Lord

Duke's gout detaineth him so long. This post will bring him the orders for the sending four more companies for Tangier which I hinted in my last. They must be entire companies and taken out of any part of the army my Lord Lieutenant shall think fitting, excepting the Scotch Regiment. I hope the mistake of the word regiment or regiments will not misguide you. The clerk that drew the letter, not knowing that the companies in Ireland were not generally regimental, used the term regiment, but His Majesty's meaning is that my lord should choose whatsoever company he thinketh fitting, the Scotch Regiment excepted. The *Gazette* will tell you as much news of me as I can. As to the Chief Baron I find now Baron Henn will be the man, and as I perceive by the recommendation of my Lord President, whether the other recommended by you will come in his place I know not, but I gave his name to His Majesty, who seemed at that time pretty indifferent, but he is much unknown here. The Duke of York is hourly expected here, the wind having been fair some days, though we have no certain news when they arrived at Leith. My most humble service to my Lord Duke and my Lady Duchess. I shall shortly be at leisure to remember her health upon her own marble table, where my office is like to be held hereafter.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 14. London.—Sir Lionel Jenkins was sworn the last Council day of the Privy Council, His Majesty at the same time declaring that he had given Mr. Secretary Coventry leave (after a great deal of importunity) to part with his place to him, but that he was not to do it till towards Lady-Day. Sir Thomas Lea hath this week resigned into His Majesty's hands his employment of one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Lord Brouncker and Sir Thomas Littleton are since added into that commission.

Sir Robert Atkins is lately removed from the Bench and Mr. Sergeant Weston fills up the place. Mr. Justice Pemberton hath likewise his quietus sent him. None yet supplies his place, and it is thought will not till the next term, though Sir John Keeling, son to the former Lord Chief Justice Keeling, is believed to stand fairest for the vacancy.

I presume the printed news will inform your Grace of the acquittal of Sir Thomas Gascoigne, and the Lady Powis being released upon bail. Thursday being likewise the last day of the term, the Grand Jury found the bill against one Mr. Christian, O'Brien, Blood and some others for a contrivance of endeavouring to suborn witnesses against the Duke of Buckingham.

His Majesty having been at Windsor for two days and returning this afternoon, the Council was adjourned from Friday to this day, when the Committee for Affairs of Ireland was appointed to sit on Tuesday morning next, and

I by the favour of your Grace am appointed to attend it, but my brother Sir John Nicholas who is in waiting at present in the Council is joined with me, though I intend with all the industry I have to apply myself wholly to that business and the obedience of your Grace's commands in that affair. The wind hath been so favourable that His Highness is very suddenly expected in the river: several of his servants is going down the river to-day in hopes of meeting him.

This day the Lord Stourton and Lord Hunsdon being summoned before the Council and asked whether they would take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, said they were advised by very good counsel that the oath of supremacy was not to be tendered to them but by the House of Lords; which though the Lord Chancellor overruled, yet they were ordered to attend the next Council day, and nothing farther done in it at present.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, February 14. Dublin.—This is the first letter I have gone about to send in my own hand this month. I cannot imagine how anybody can find his account in the change you mention in yours of the 7th, but least of all the King's, for he in place of a steady faithful servant and uncorrupt minister will have one of contrary qualifications, and that to his own knowledge. I have seen the return you had out of Holland, by this time I presume you know more. I cannot express how much I am troubled at Secretary Coventry's retreat. If either Mr. Hyde or Sir Lionel Jenkins come into his place and I might be directed to correspond with either of them [I might do so] almost with the same freedom and confidence; but Ireland is usually the eldest secretary's province, and I would not by any motion from me either injure or displease my Lord of Sunderland, but it will be necessary I should soon know into whose hands all the public despatches concerning this place will be put.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 17. London.—There having been no Council met since the last post day I can give your Grace but a slender account from thence. The Committee for regulating the Justices of the Peace sat on Monday and perfected the lists of all the counties which are to be despatched immediately, the circuits being already appointed. All persons both Lords and Commons who promoted the petition are left out. The Committee for Affairs of Ireland met this morning, where was read about half the number of papers of examination relating to the Earl of Tyrone which were remitted by your Grace to Mr. Secretary Coventry, and have appointed to meet on Friday next in the afternoon to go through with the rest of the examinations.

I presume your Grace will hear (from his own hands) the intended employment of my predecessor and your Grace's faithful servant, Sir Robert Southwell, to the Elector of Brandenburg; his instructions are preparing, and it is designed he should begin his voyage the beginning of next week. There is yet no certain account when His Highness left Scotland, but the nearest guess is that he embarked there on Monday last.

M. DRELINCOURT to the EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, February 19. Oxford.—Je supplie v^{re} grandeur d'agreer la lib^{te} que je prends à present de l'assurer de la tres parfaite sant^e de Monsieur son aymable fils, et de la bonne disposition ou il continue d'être à tous égards. Il y a du temps, Monseigneur, qu'il est devenu tres matinal, n'étant jamais au lit apres cinq heures et demyes. Il prend beaucoup plus d'exercis à pied et à cheval qu'il n'a jamais fait auparavant. Sa taille est assurément plus belle et plus grande depuis que v^{re} grandeur ne l'a veu, et il fait tres jolym^{nt} son devoir: il est généreux, civil et honeste à chacun, aymé et chery de tous. Comme je l'exhorte souvent à ne point faire d'affront à personne, aussy je luy inspire à n'en point prendre de qui que ce soit, et je vois que c'est la entierement son humeur; et il y a grande esperance, monseigneur, qu'il sera un jour un tres honeste et un tres galant homme, et comme je me flatte aussy un tres bon soldat, car il a du cœur et il devient à veue d'œil extremement fort et robuste et à beaucoup de jugement et de conduite pour son age: mais j'ajouteray avec le respect que je dois que quand M. le Duc trouvera à propos de le tirer d'icy, que l'academie et le beau monde luy pourront faire beaucoup de bien. Je n'oserois pas en dire davantage sinon que je suis avec tout le zèle, le respect, et la passion imaginable, etc.*

ORDER CONCERNING EDUCATION OF LORD CLANRICKARDE'S GRANDSON.

After our very hearty commendations to your Grace we did formerly by our letters of the 30th of May last recommend it to your Grace to take such security from the Earl of Clanrickarde as might hinder the education of his grandchild, the Lord Dunkellin's son, in the parts beyond the seas, in regard of the many inconveniencies that might happen by his being sent abroad so young. And taking into consideration that the said child is now arrived to an age capable of being instructed as well in the principles of religion as in other good learning, and that the neglect thereof may give occasion to his said grandfather to take him from his mother and to bring him up in the Roman Catholic religion, which His Majesty being desirous by all means possible to have

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

prevented, hath commanded us to signify the same to your Grace and the Lords of His Majesty's Privy Council there. And once more effectually to recommend it to you (as we do hereby) to take care that the said child be educated in the Protestant religion, and in order thereunto that you cause him to be placed in the house of one of the bishops of that kingdom to be carefully instructed and bred up in the doctrine of the Church of Ireland. And to use your utmost endeavours with the said Earl of Clanrickard to make such allowance for the support of his said grandchild and charge of his education as is answerable to the relation he hath to his lordship. And so nothing doubting of your more than ordinary care in this affair, we bid you very heartily farewell. From the Court at Whitehall, the 20th day of February, 1679-80.

Your Grace's very loving friends,

FINCH C., ANGLESEY C.P.S., RADNOR, BRIDGEWATER,
H. LONDON, HENRY COVENTRY, L. HYDE, L. JENKINS,
Ffra. NORTH, S. GODOLPHIN, JOHN NICHOLAS.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 21. Whitehall.—Since my last to my Lord of Arran there hath been another Committee for Irish Affairs where all the papers concerning the Earl of Tyrone and Lord Brittas were read, and though the particulars have not yet been thoroughly debated, yet I found the Committee generally surprised to find that several witnesses making depositions of so great a crime as designing an invasion of His Majesty's kingdom by the French and surprisal of his town of Limerick, etc., nevertheless the persons accused are suffered to be bailed, and therefore were all of opinion that His Majesty should command me to write to your Grace that the persons accused may be all secured in order to their speedy trial, the opinion of the Board being that the accusations import high treason. Accordingly by His Majesty's command I am to require of your Grace that the persons bailed be immediately taken into custody and there detained till released by due course of law, and that in the meantime all things should be prepared for their trial and that with convenient expedition. Possibly by the next post I shall have something more particular for your Grace and Council than I have at present, but the informations sent up by you are looked upon here as of great importance. We are every day in expectation of His Royal Highness and Duchess. All things are at present in quiet, and we think people's minds rather incline to a calm than storm. The Commissioners of the Admiralty tell me they have sent order to their Clerk of the Cheque to provide passages for the soldiers for Tangier, if so be they should be there before this convoy part.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 21.—Having received from Mr. Evelyn the enclosed, which by Sir Stephen Fox, who was once about purchasing the house mentioned in it, I do find to be a very great bargain, and the sum demanded not very considerable, besides a moral certainty if the times be quiet that at any time it may be parted with at advantage, I thought it not amiss to send you the proposal, the conveniency and, indeed, decency of your having an abode in England, if your affairs can permit your laying out so much money, having inclined me to make this step, which, if proceeded in, I doubt not but you will be satisfied of the price and the good repair that both house and gardens are in.

I am desired to entreat your favour in some affairs of Sir Richard Bellings which I did undertake for, as far as consisted with forms and your power to assist him. By conjectures of the wind since Monday last, which was the day the Duke embarked, we expect him to-morrow or next day. I am extreme sorry that you have been so much troubled with the gout. I wish you a perfect recovery and all happiness. [Encloses the letter and note following.]

JOHN EVELYN to the EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, February 14.—I am extremely sorry for my Lord Duke's sake but especially for your lordship's that you reject the opportunity is presented to you for the purchasing of that sweet place at Chelsey upon so easy terms, because I am certain that if ever the times should settle into any tolerable composure it will not lie upon their hands who have interest in it for a much more considerable sum that what is now demanded for it, and that then it may not possibly be in my power to serve your lordship as now it is. I have formerly acquainted your lordship with the particulars, that besides a magnificent house capable of being made (with small expense) perfectly modish, the offices, gardens and other accomodations for air, water, situation, vicinity to London, benefit of the river and mediocrity of price are nowhere to be paralleled I am sure about this town or any that I know in England. There are with it to be added as many orange trees and other precious greens as are worth 500*l.*; the fruits of the gardens are exquisite; there is a snow-house—in a word I know of no place more capable of being made the envy of all the noble retreats of the greatest persons near this Court and city, so that it ever grieves me your lordship should not be master of it. I almost forgot to tell your lordship that there is near one hundred pounds a year in good tenements under rented, so as upon the matter I do not esteem your lordship gives above 3,500*l.* for the whole, which really is not above a third part of what it would sell in other circumstances. Not one argument of all this would

I use to your lordship after what your lordship has communicated to me since you writ into Ireland (where my Lord Duke cannot have so perfect a notion of it as your lordship who is so near it every day) but because methinks I cannot have acquitted myself of the many obligations I remain under to your lordship without making your lordship this second offer of my service, whilst it is in my power.

A PARTICULAR OF CHELSEY HOUSE.

There belongs to Chelsey House sixteen acres of ground with several large gardens and courts all walled in and planted with the choicest fruits that could be collected either from abroad or in England. The whole house is in perfect good repair. The apartments altered according to the mode, my Lord of Bristol having laid out upon it 2,000*l*. The out-housing is very good, ample and commodious, and all the offices supplied with excellent water. The tenements belonging to it are now let for 100*l*. per annum, and may very considerably be improved as the leases expire. The purchase was at first 7,000*l*.

For this particular with the addition of all orange trees and other greens, fruit and flowers of all kinds, with seats, rollers, tables and all garden utensils. Also within the house all fixed necessaries as grates, chimney pieces and wainscot, the billiard table and a pair of marble tables and house clock, there will be paid 5,000*l*.

Thus offered 28th June, 1679. By Sir Stephen Fox.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 24.—I received yours of the 14th with much satisfaction to find your fit of the gout beginning to leave you. Of the affair of the Chancellorship I have not heard a word more, perhaps it was a false report or a wrong information. I always tell you what I hear and my authors, but will not be answerable for the truth of my informations. I think without undecency you cannot put by my Lord of Sunderland from the affairs of Ireland, and since that is his portion I think the soonest and civillest advances to be best. In this Sir Robert Southwell's and my opinion go together. Of what we owe to that worthy friend I need not use arguments to persuade you, having found him so useful on all occasions. The King has remitted him his quit-rents in Ireland, which amount to about seventy pounds a year. The King's letter, with the usual forms from the Lords of the Treasury, will shortly be sent you, and I hope you will let him see how joyful and ready you will be to despatch anything of good relating to him. The Duke and Duchess arrived here in good health. The King met them at the stairs' foot just as they came out of their barges. My humble opinion is that to His Royal Highness you would write him a letter of compliment on this occasion.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 24. London.—I was so afflicted with a defluxion of rheum on my eye that it made me incapable of paying my duty to your Grace by the last post, for which omission this humbly begs pardon. I presume your Grace received the Order of Council relating to the trial of the Earl of Tyrone, Lord Brittas, etc., from Mr. Secretary Coventry by the last post, which is all hath been done by the Committee for Affairs of Ireland these two meetings. Last night His Royal Highness and the Duchess landed at Deptford, where they were attended this morning by a great many of the best quality, and came about three o'clock this afternoon to Whitehall.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 28. London.—I have inclosed presented your Grace with a full account of the whole proceedings of the Committee for Suppressing Popery, a copy of which is ordered to be delivered to the judges before their circuits, that in their charges they may encourage the justices to proceed to the convicting, and the juries to find the estates of such as are convicted for being Popish recusants, in order to the levying the penalties the law requires. The Lord Sunderland, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Godolphin (who are at present our triumvirate) are very diligent in promoting this prosecution of the Papists, and lest the world might be apt to think it should slacken upon the arrival of the Duke, they have lately been more pressing than ordinary for the expediting both of the commissions which are several of them sent out already and of all other things relating to the putting the laws in execution against the Popish dissenters.

This week, the night after the Duke's coming to town, Sir John Coventry was so unfortunately drunk that at a great coffee house in the city he publicly spoke very rude and barbarous words reflecting on His Highness. The words are said to be these:—That the Duke was a Papist and a traitor, and that he would prove him one, for which a prosecution against Sir John Coventry is daily expected, though there hath no progress been made in it yet as I can hear of. This week hath likewise been very unhappy in quarrels, in one of which Mr. Henry Wharton, a third son of Lord Wharton, is so dangerously wounded that he is more like to die than to live. But another quarrel which nearer concerns your Grace was decided this morning in which the Lord Plymouth and Sir George Hewit were principals and the Lord Cavendish second to Sir George, as the Lord Mordant was to my Lord Plymouth. The Lord Mordant is wounded in the breast, but without any apprehension of his being in danger, which very happily is all the hurt that was done. Sir Robert Southwell begins his journey to Brandenburg on Monday or Tuesday next. [*Encloses the following paper.*]

ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
SUPPRESSING POPERY.

December 19, 1479.—His Majesty out of his continual care of the Protestant religion having thought fit to appoint a committee of the Lords of his Privy Council to consider of the most effectual means for putting the laws in execution against the Papists and for suppression of Popery. And their lordships having at several times met and reported their opinions in this behalf to His Majesty in Council, the Justices of the Peace of Middlesex and Westminster have received orders in pursuance of the late proclamation against Papists residing in or near London to cause lists to be forthwith taken of all housekeepers, and especially of such as let lodgings within the bills of mortality, and of all midwives, apothecaries and physicians that are Papists or suspected to be such, and have returned the lists to the Council Board for their effectual prosecution. And that no Papist may be harboured or thought to receive protection within any of His Majesty's houses, a commission is issued out to the officers of the green cloth to tender the oaths of allegiance and supremacy and to offer the test unto all such Papists and suspected Papists as shall be found in Whitehall and the precincts thereof, who are thereupon to be proceeded against according to law. And the messengers and knight marshals' men are ordered to seize and carry them before the said officers. And a reward of ten pounds is to be paid to the discoverers of any Papist or suspected Papist who shall be harboured in any of His Majesty's houses, and the officer who harbours them shall be turned out of his place. The Justices of the Peace are likewise permitted to search Somerset House at any time in the Queen's absence, as also St. James's, for priests and Papists. And that no Popish recusant may expect any favour or connivance for their staying in town, His Majesty hath declared his resolution not to grant them any dispensations or licenses to that effect.

And for the preventing the resort of all persons to the chapels of ambassadors and foreign ministers of the Popish religion, except they be their menial servants, the Justices of the Peace are directed to impart the lists of such servants to the constables and beadles of their respective parishes, who are upon Sundays and holydays to seize all persons who shall be found unduly resorting thither that they be prosecuted according to law. A proclamation is likewise set out to warn all His Majesty's subjects of the dangers they incur by being seduced to the Popish religion, and to encourage all persons to discover those that go about to seduce them, or are seduced to that religion, as also such as are or have been bred in Popish seminaries and such others as shall send any maintenance to them.

And that no encouragement may be wanting in order to the conviction of Papists, a Privy Seal is passed to enable all

the judges to reward according to their discretions all persons that shall prosecute such Popish recusants before them to be paid out of the estates or forfeitures of those who shall be convicted by their prosecutions. And for such persons as are already imprisoned anywhere upon suspicion of being Popish priests, it is further ordered that they be forthwith prosecuted to an attainder.

And whereas the Lords of the Committee have received copies of the lists of the Papists and reputed Papists of England and Wales which had been lodged in the House of Commons by the knights of the respective shires, the Lord Chancellor is directed to cause commissions to be forthwith prepared in which the said lists are to be inserted, empowering and requiring the justices of the peace of each county to tender the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to the persons particularly named therein, and upon their refusal to proceed against them according to law in order to their speedy conviction. Which commissions are accompanied not only with special instructions for the better direction of the said justices herein, but also with letters from the Council Board requiring and encouraging them diligently to execute the said commissions and to return an account of their proceedings in pursuance thereof, as also to send up the names of all others whom they shall know or suspect to be Papists not mentioned in the said commissions.

And the lists of some counties having been formerly withdrawn or not delivered to the clerk of the House of Commons, letters are written from the Lords of the Council to the knights of the shires who served in Parliament at that time to remit them to the Council Board, that thereupon commissions may be prepared in like manner as is already directed in respect of the other counties.

Memorandum. A letter being received from the Clerk of the Peace of Lancashire complaining of the neglect of four of the Justices of the Peace in prosecuting Papists, and the same being transmitted to the Council Board, the said justices were ordered to attend the Board, and having been accordingly examined upon the matters laid to their charge, Mr. Serjeant Rigby appearing more faulty than the rest was put out of the Commission of the Peace. Lists are likewise delivered to the judges of each circuit which are copies of the names of the persons mentioned in the commissions (for tendering the oaths of allegiance and supremacy) by which the said judges in their circuits may see the commissions put in execution against every particular person mentioned in the said lists. Her Majesty hath likewise sent in a list signed by the Earl of Ossory, her chamberlain, of the nine Roman Catholic servants Her Majesty entertains in her service which are the King's subjects.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, February 28. Whitehall.—I have received your Grace's of the 14th instant, but have had no opportunity to have that or the Council's letter concerning the Bill of Settlement debated, but shall propose it the next Council day. As to your letter that recommends a letter for the bestowing the collector's place in all the ports of Leinster and Munster in reversion, upon perusal of it I found many things very unusual in it. First, that the giving should give a place in so many several ports without naming the ports. Secondly, that it is a reversion to so many men who are not so much as named, nor what reversions are after them which are necessarily to be specified in the patent, which for the security of the petitioners you are to be directed by the King to enquire what they are, and be they never so many to be inserted in the patent; but though this may make the grant good to the petitioners, yet there is no care taken that the King shall know what kind of reversion he granteth—whether a reversion after two, three, or twenty lives, and in all grants the King ought to be informed what he grants. The next is that there is no account given of the merits of these two men. Why a grant that never, as far as I can hear of, passed before of the most considerable part of the ports of Ireland should be given them, and by a reversion, nobody here knoweth how distant. In conclusion, after His Majesty having lately complained of reversions, immediately to offer him a reversion of so unprecedented a nature as this, I could not in my own judgment think at all convenient. Therefore I showed it my Lord of Ossory and desired him to take my Lord Chamberlain's opinion upon it, which, as he telleth me, is the same with mine; so I have thought fitting not to present it till I hear farther from your Grace. Your other recommendation for the Chirurgeon's place I shall despatch as soon as possible.

I have already pressed both the Commissioners for Tangier and the Commissioners of the Treasury to adjust speedily the manner how the payment for the Irish Tangier soldiers shall be directed. They have both promised to make all haste in it.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 2. London.—The Committee for Suppressing Popery, etc., met yesterday in the afternoon, at which His Majesty was present, where the first thing considered of was an order to the Attorney General to inquire into the most effective ways of putting the Act for Purging and Regulating Corporations in execution. There were likewise some proposals brought in by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the making better inquisition into the estates of Popish recusants and the better levying penalties when the estates are found, in order to which they recommend that

there may be a Receiver General for every two or three counties, who is likewise to be the solicitor and supervisor of the inquisitions and to have the care of paying in the forfeitures into the Exchequer. The commissions for tendering the oath of supremacy and the instructions which I gave your Grace an account of by the last are already gone out for sixteen counties, and commissions for all the remaining counties will be sent down to them by the latter end of this month.

The Duke hath been graciously pleased (upon the earnest intercession and importunity of Mr. Secretary Coventry and Mr. Seymour) to pass by the imprudence of Sir John Coventry which I gave your Grace intimation of in my last, so that the prosecution is ceased.

This evening at the Committee of Tangier there was mention made (as a piece of news which came to the Admiralty) that when the late ships came to Kinsale to receive the four companies to be transported to the garrison of Tangier, the companies were not ready at the place and some not removed out of their quarters at Dublin—which relating to Ireland I could not omit giving your Grace an account of.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1679-80, March 2. Dublin Castle.—My Lord Longford, by advice with Mr. Solicitor General, finding since his arrival here that his patent for the government of Carrickfergus which was passed while he was in England is defective in many particulars, there being no express mention made in it of the precincts and bounds of the said government, nor the Admiralty of Lough Neagh inserted which was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester, Lord Baron of Belfast, to Edward Lord Viscount Carrickfergus, and to Arthur Earl of Donegal successively in their patents for the said government: and it appearing by the general words in His Majesty's letters for granting the same government of Carrickfergus to my Lord Longford, as also in his patent passed upon it, that it was His Majesty's intention his lordship should enjoy and hold the said government with as ample privileges, powers and authorities as it has been at any time granted to any former governors: to prevent, therefore, any disputes that may hereafter happen for want of particularly mentioning the exact precincts and bounds of the said government and of the aforesaid Admiralty of Lough Neagh, at his lordship's request and for the justice I conceive of his pretension I send you the enclosed draught of a letter for his lordship's passing a new patent of the said government prepared by Mr. Solicitor General, and I am the rather induced to recommend it to His Majesty because it brings no new charge to the establishment, nor is any other advantage to his lordship than a mark of His Majesty's favour which, I conceive, the zeal which he upon all occasions shews in His Majesty's service deserves.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 6. London.—His Majesty was pleased to declare last night (at the Council) his intentions of having a Parliament meet in Ireland before the latter end of May, and I presume your Grace will receive the signification of His Majesty's pleasure by this post for the preparing of bills against that time. The next month of April is my turn to attend wholly, by which means I shall be the more capable of receiving your Grace's commands. The King intends to go to Newmarket on Wednesday next, and hath in order to it appointed Tuesday to be the next Council day. Sir Robert Southwell embarked on Tuesday last for The Hague.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

Mr. Secretary Coventry showed me a letter which you desired to have sent from the King in behalf of Robert Higgins and John Drury for reversions of customers' places in the provinces of Leinster and Munster. He told me that he thought it a service to you not to propose it to His Majesty, having upon occasions of the like grants showed an averseness, and having unwillingly signed the last, saying that all places were clogged with survivances, by which reason many of them were in the hands of insufficient persons. He further adds that this draught is of a general nature, not confining it to any particular places, but gives a latitude of bestowing all within the provinces mentioned, which he observes not to have been usual. As I am far from not wishing that you should oblige as many as you can, so I should be sorry that any of your requests should be unacceptable to the King, or that they might have in them wherewithal to furnish your enemies matter of exception, though I doubt not but my Lord of Sunderland will carry himself fairly towards you; yet I think you ought to be more cautious in your despatches than when you had to deal with so worthy and so experienced a friend as his predecessor has always been to you and yours. I presume to send you the copy of that letter because it seems to him and me not according to former precedents, and your secretary is faulty if he offers you papers not according to method, it being impossible for you to read all those punctually that you sign or transmit. I beg your pardon if I am impertinent. I think it better failing on that side than in omitting to give you notice of things which I think may be necessary for your knowledge. I am extreme glad to find that you are abroad and so well recovered; may your health be well established and continue long. The place of Chief Baron, I hear, is disposed of to Baron Henn. I am told Sir Richard Kennedy is dying; if that report be true the former succeeding him, by what they say of Henn he would be a gainer by what he has already, and he's better by being first than Chief Baron,

since there may be danger of his losing that place by reason of his insufficiency. Sir Richard Stephens you were pleased to command me to serve upon all occasions; if in this juncture it be acceptable to you I will endeavour his preferment according as I shall receive your directions.

[*Undated, but endorsed* "Received March 6, 1679-80."]

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 6th. Whitehall.—I have since my last to your Grace got the two letters from your Grace and Council read at the Board yesterday. They would not at all meddle with the desires of Peter Talbot, but laid it totally aside. To the other of the Bill of Settlement I find them still of an opinion against that Bill, but as I before hinted to your Grace if you shall find upon the meeting of the Parliament that there is a desire to have such a Bill and upon what terms, your Grace and the Council would transmit it hither. But there are so many different opinions concerning the last Bill that cause such different opinions in those of the Council that pretend to understand the affairs of Ireland, but they do desire the other bills may be hastened over with all expedition that they may be returned to you by the end of May without fiat. There is an order drawn up to that purpose, but it being in mine and others' judgment not so expressive of the result of the Council as it should be, I defer the sending of it till next Tuesday. I send your Grace a letter this post in recommendation of Doctor Sall, who is coming over to you into Ireland. It is by the King's command, who hath been earnestly pressed by the Bishops of Canterbury and London. On Wednesday next their Majesties, Duke and Court go to Newmarket. At his return, if not before, I shall betake myself to my retreat.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 9th. London.—This day at Council there were some alterations made in the order which was to be transmitted to your Grace relating to the preparing of the Bills for the meeting of the Parliament. The chiefest was that though His Majesty had been pleased in Council to lay aside the Act of Settlement which was sent out of Ireland, yet that he would be very ready to agree to any other which should be transmitted from thence which should be for the public good, peace and quiet of his subjects there. Mention was likewise made in the order of a bill to be prepared to hinder Papists from sitting in either House of Parliament in the manner as the Act now stands here. In all other things and as to the time of sitting it is the same with the former. But I suppose the order will be transmitted to your Grace by this same post. The last Council day a petition of Coppinger was read complaining against the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, which about three weeks ago was referred to your

Grace and the Council of Ireland absolutely, but now there is an order that the Lord Chancellor shall give his answer to the complaint which is to be transmitted to this Board.

Last night the Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Clayton, invited His Majesty and His Royal Highness to an entertainment at his house in the city, where the bonfires, bells and loud acclamations of the multitude testified the joy and loyalty of the citizens of London. But His Majesty hath not so good an opinion of those of the city of York, for this day in Council he commanded Mr. Attorney General to inquire whether they have made any such slips as might forfeit their charter or any other way bring them under the power of the laws.

To-morrow morning His Majesty intends his journey to Newmarket together with the Queen, the Duke and Duchess of Portsmouth. The Duchess of York, not being very well after her voyage out of Scotland, resolving to stay at St. James's till their return which is intended to be the first week in April.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 9. Whitehall.—His Majesty having taken particular notice of the great labour and study of Andrew Sall, Doctor in Divinity, and one of His Majesty's chaplains, about several books in defence of our Church and doctrine, and of his intention to continue the like industry; and also considering the infirmities that are fallen upon him as well by his said labour and studies as by his age, hath commanded me to signify his pleasure on the said doctor's behalf, that in regard of his learning and pains your Grace will be pleased to confer upon him the first good deanery in Ireland that shall become vacant; and in regard of his infirmities and for his encouragement to continue his said studies that your Grace take effectual care that during his life he may have the use of those lodgings in His Majesty's College near Dublin whereof he was in possession when he was there last; and also that he have the liberty of bringing from the public library of that college to his chamber such books as he shall from time to time have occasion to use for his works in hand, he giving security to restore the same safely to the library again, which favour he says he formerly enjoyed when he first came to live in that college. And lastly that he be obliged to no duties or assistances for the use of the said lodgings and books more than he shall freely give according as the condition of his health and employment shall permit him. This is what I had direction to write to your Grace in favour of the said Doctor Sall, wherewith your Grace will comply as far as you see good cause, or otherwise return your opinion upon all or any of the particulars above mentioned. If so, I know not whether it may come to my hand, but, however, the matter shall go, I shall remain always, etc.

SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, March 10th. By his Grace's command.—I am commanded by his Grace to tell your lordship that he cannot yet write to you himself, and that he hath given thanks to Mr. Secretary Coventry for not offering to His Majesty's signature the draught of a letter which he had recommended to him for that purpose. As to the house at Chelsey, how good soever the bargain may be, the purchase he says is not agreeable to his condition, and he wonders that he hears nothing of the state of your lordship's affairs in Holland.

He is much satisfied with the relation of Monsieur Drelinecourt of your son, and agrees that it will be shortly time to put him into another way of education, and therefore it will be fit to consider under what government to put him, The fittest time for his going abroad will be next autumn, before which time you may fix upon such as may be fit to attend upon him. This is all for the present, only that his Grace thinks Paris the proper place for him to go first unto.

MR. ELLIS to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, March 13. London.—Going to see the Bishop of Rochester, who is very much a servant of your lordship and your family, he spoke to me of a business which he presumed your lordship might not be displeased to take some cognizance of. Dr. Andrew Sall, who was a man of great reputation amongst the Roman Catholics, having been a professor in their universities many years, and a man of great learning, came over to the Church of England in the time of the Earl of Essex's government, who gave him a living just sufficient for his subsistence, which he, as a disinterested person, was contented with. The Roman Catholics, being exceedingly angry with him, he came into England for his safety, and being ancient and sedentary was some time since seized with a rheumatism, which has taken from him the use of his legs, and made him a very helpless man. Not long since the Chancellor of Ireland, being advised that Dr. Sall was dead here, gave away the living he had to another, and it has cost him a year's revenue to get that man out again, which accident added to his other misfortunes has almost utterly ruined him, and now fearing from what is past that he shall have for the future but a very ill account of the only means he has to subsist on, he finds no remedy to prevent starving here but with what hazard soever to return to Ireland, if yet his indisposition of body will suffer him to make the journey, unless his condition might be made known by some good hand to his Grace, who he believes is not advised of it at present, that so his Grace may please to give order that the revenue of his living may be punctually received and transmitted to him for his maintenance. Dr. Sall, as the bishop says, is looked upon as the most considerable man for learning and sincerity that ever came over from the Church

of Rome to ours, and therefore it would give great satisfaction to many men to see that such a convert should meet with all encouragement here, especially in the government of the present Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and does humbly conceive your lordship might be pleased, if you were acquainted with his case, to recommend him to his Grace's favour, which the bishop having said to me, with intent, as I suppose, that I should give your lordship some account of it, I have taken the liberty of doing it, humbly submitting it to your lordship's consideration.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 13. London.—It was yesterday ordered that the Council shall meet but once a week, that is on Fridays, till His Majesty's return from Newmarket. There was likewise then an order made in reference to the petitions of Coppinger against the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, that the said Lord Chancellor should return his answer to both the said petitions to the Board, although the first petition was otherwise disposed of, as I gave your Grace an account formerly. The way of management of this affair and the persons concerned in the management of it makes me imagine (with submission) that there is something more than bare justice, or kindness to Coppinger in the bottom of it. The order relating to the trial of the Earl of Tyrone, which I formerly mentioned to your Grace, was stopped and some alteration made in it by the committee this day, which I suppose will be an order the next Council. The effect of it as it stands now is that your Grace shall cause the persons accused for the Plot (and who now are committed by order of the Board) to be brought to their trials with all convenient speed, and that the peers be tried first.

Here is a discourse that there lately seems to be some misunderstanding between the Duke of Lauderdale and the Lord Sunderland, which is said to have proceeded so far that it is thought the two persons of the greatest interest here are concerned in it, each for their particular friend.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 15. Newmarket.—I here send you enclosed Mr. Secretary's letter which will inform you at length of the grounds upon which my recommendation of Doctor Sall is desired. I believe now all your thoughts are taken up in sending over bills and in endeavouring to get honest men elected for the ensuing Parliament; as this will be a most important service to get moneys for the security of the kingdom and to have its condition settled, so you may be sure much industry will be used to hinder your compassing these ends: one lord who uses all his crafts to reflect on your Government, out of hopes I certainly know that he entertains

of obtaining it himself—will do all he can by his friends there to hinder supply, hoping from thence that a necessity of his parts and interests will procure him what he does so much long after. Whensoever you think it fitting that I should wait upon you, I shall be ready upon very short notice of your pleasure. The conduct of my Lord Candish I cannot enough admire, coming hither after his leaving the Council, and being here several days and in the rooms, where he met the Duke and never took notice of him or went to kiss his hand, as the other three that quit with him have done. The King has commanded him from his presence, since which time, though he be here yet, I have not seen him since. When the Duke was in Flanders he desired me to make from him all the professions of duty and respect that could be, and he approved of my letter, having shewed it him before I sent it, upon which he had a very kind return, and without any manner or colour of disgust he has applied himself perpetually to the Duke of Monmouth, with whom you may remember with reason he was much dissatisfied, and behaved himself towards the Duke, who was always kind to him, at the rate I have here mentioned. Since our being here my Lord of Shaftesbury sent word to the Mayor that he would bring the Duke of Monmouth to him to dinner, which he civilly excused; but being a second time pressed, the Lord Mayor replied that if the Duke of Monmouth came in at one door he would get out at another.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 16. Whitehall.—Your Grace's of the 9th of March I have received, and heartily condole the length of your gout, but congratulate you the gentleness of it. I am providing against mine and shall shortly have leisure to lie a-bed. I shall not fail to acquaint the Council with the contents of your letter to-morrow, but His Majesty is at Newmarket, where he hath had very cold weather. As to the letter I received from you in favour of my Lord Longford, I have written to him at large about it, and I doubt not he will acquaint your Grace with it. We have at present a great calm at land though very stormy at sea—nothing of news from abroad or at home; when and where our mighty neighbour will break this calm we know not, but the greatest appearance is for Italy.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 20. London.—His Majesty and most of the Court being at present at Newmarket, this place affords very little worth your Grace's perusal. There was a Council held yesterday where most of the business was concerning private affairs only, an order for Mr. Secretary Coventry to move His Majesty for the naming a High Steward for the trial of the Earl of Tyrone and Lord Brittas. The Lord

Cavendish was forbid His Majesty's presence at Newmarket, but I cannot yet find that there hath been any late occasion for it. The Duchess of Modena is daily expected here, and the Duke of York intends to be here on Monday from Newmarket, whither he speedily returns again. It is believed this weather if it continues will invite His Majesty to stay at Newmarket till the third of April, which is longer than was imagined. The Earl of Sunderland came to the King on Wednesday last, having been for this week at his home in Northamptonshire, which had occasioned a great many false reports about the town.

CAPTAIN JOHN BAXTER to the DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1679-80, March 20. [Kilkenny]—Yesterday the Lord Granard's servant came hither with seven score five trees of which care is taken according to your Grace's commands, and forty shillings given to those that brought them. They were five days coming hither with them. I have had three fair days since Wednesday last, and three or four more will make up the wall that fell, and will also do what was not done before, which is to get on a water table and a breast wall fit for the coping stones, which will make that wall pleasant to the eye. His Grace's apartment is now solely under Massy, who hath many hands at work to finish it, and very diligent to have it finished by the time limited. The sashes for the windows are all made, but not got up. The Court will look much better than when your Grace was here when the new pavement is finished, which will be done in a fortnight of fair weather. On Monday or Tuesday next the marble piers by the grotto will be got up, which could not be carried through the bowling green until this dry weather came in. I believe the like were not seen in this kingdom heretofore.

The marble chimney-piece for his Grace's bed-chamber is ready to be got up, and there is nothing that can hinder the completing of his Grace's apartment but the want of the stone door-case, which is not yet all come hither. The flags for the lobby to the garden are all ready to be laid, but Joseph will not consent to lay them till the doorcase is set up; the place is ready for it, only two foot of the outside wall stands yet unbroken, as your Grace commanded.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1679-80, March 23rd. London.—I lately received the honour of your Grace's letter of the 9th instant, and shall upon all occasions endeavour faithfully to give intimation of all things that occur to me which may be of service to your Grace. The account from your Grace and Council of the trial of the Earl of Tyrone was yesterday delivered by Mr. Secretary Coventry and read at Council.

There being an extraordinary Council called upon this following occasion, which was an information sent by Mr. Justice Dewey to Mr. Secretary Coventry of several thousand apprentices who had set their names down in a list in which they engaged themselves to meet altogether on the 29th of May and burn the Rump (as they called it), the examination of it came in the afternoon before the Board, where were only brought about ten boys, who confessed they had subscribed their names to such a paper, and all of them agreed it was at the instigation of one Alford, a bell-founder in the City, who they called Captain, and likewise said that he told them he had four or five thousand more that would join with them, and that His Majesty would give them leave to do it as soon as he came from Newmarket. Alford was taken last night by the Lord Mayor, and will be brought to-morrow (which is appointed a Council upon the same occasion) before the Board. It is discoursed that a stranger hath often been at their meetings, and paid their reckonings for them himself ; but that as yet is not proved, though it induces their lordships to be more strict in the inquiry into the bottom of it, and to examine whether there be not something behind the curtain more than their boyish recreation.

Last night His Royal Highness came from Newmarket and was this morning complimented by the Lord Mayor. The Duchess of Modena arrived likewise this day, who intends but a very short stay, and the Duke designs being with the King again on Saturday next. The University of Cambridge last Sunday made their compliments to the King and Duke, though there hath been some disputes among them, and endeavours to divert them from the latter.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1679-80, March 23. Dublin.—I have yours of the 15th from Newmarket, but doubt you had not received your brother's written by my direction until after the Duke was gone from thence. You will as soon as you can perform that duty for me. I do not wish that unknowing and unthinking men should take tales on trust when I find the Bishop of Rochester could imagine that my Lord Primate would, if he could, take any advantage of Dr. Sall's absence to suspend or seize upon his livings, or that he would dispose of them upon a rumour of his death till he had very authentic assurance of it. The truth is the poor man, for want of knowledge of such affairs and for want of honesty in those he trusted, has been miserably cheated, and that I doubt by his brother. My Lord Primate will himself satisfy the Bishop of Rochester. I am able to write no longer.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, March 31.—Yours of the 12th of this month came not to my hands till the 28th with other letters of a fresher date,

which I mention that your lordship may not suspect it was possible for me to lose any time to make a suitable return to so obliging an instance of your favour and to so desirable a thing as the advantage of your friendship which you are pleased to offer. I had upon the first notice of Mr. Secretary Coventry's dismission congratulated your lordship's succeeding him, and the correspondence it must introduce betwixt your lordship and me, but I have till now very lately wanted the use of my right hand, with which and with great sincerity of heart I do now profess myself desirous to show myself, etc.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, March 31.—I forgot to tell you in my last that I had seen yours to your brother, and the Prince of Orange's to you. That of the Prince is so passionately obliging that I know not how you can quit his service in good nature so long as he can think you useful to him. Yet I think you ought to find some fit means to let him know how much the world is mistaken in the opulence of your family and that such sums as must be spent answerable to your quality and post do incommode you.

We are here labouring at the bills now sent for in much haste out of England in order to the calling of a Parliament here, and if I should now hesitate or appear less confident of success in it, it would be remembered how earnest I have been for a Parliament ever since I last landed here, but it would not be considered what changes have happened since, nor how since those changes I have slackened my pursuits. I shall, therefore, as soon as may be send over such bills as I think proper for the conjuncture, and yet I cannot hope they will be such but that an ingenious or an interested man may make plausible objections against some parts of them either in behalf of the King or of the Protestants, or perhaps even of the Papists, rather than want something to find fault with. And how far such objections may take place coming from persons supposed to understand Ireland with others that have taken little pains to understand it and are willing to ease themselves acquiescing, is much to be doubted, especially *[illegible]* nobody on the place capable of admittance to Committees and Councils *[illegible]* for *[illegible]* particulars that may be objected against. I see the disadvantage I am like to be upon, but I know not what to propose for prevention more than that the King would suspend his judgment till *[all the]* objections may be put in writing and transmitted hither, or till His Majesty may be attended by some from hence able to give some account of the matter. But this is a proposition fitter perhaps to go along with the bills than to be spoken before. If it be true that the King intends to go to Windsor soon after his return from Newmarket and to stay there all the summer, I

do not think our bills will be despatched by one Council day in a week at Hampton Court. I desire to know as much as can be known of the King's purpose how and where he will dispose of himself this summer.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, April 2nd. Whitehall.—I do by this messenger send you the letter I was commanded by the Council to write to you with all the circumstances of the Plot, which hath been improved here enough to make a sufficient noise, though, in my poor opinion, the informant either can or will tell us very little unless Morphy will open more freely to whom he referreth all. He was brought to the Council by the Earl of Shaftesbury, but Serjeant Osborne hath given a very bad character of him. For the several letters recommended by your Grace, that of Kinsale I put immediately into Mr. Hyde's hands, but there not being a quorum of them in town no report could be obtained. I shall now press it afresh. That for my Lord Longford's Government is signed. That for Mr. N. is in a fair way if we can pass that unusual clause of being paid by the Farmers. The King is well disposed for it. For that of Mr. Attorney I have not yet durst to promote it, for His Majesty is so very shy of late in granting reversions that I know not how to propose one five deep. I shall advise with your best friends, and if they give me encouragement shall proceed, but the world is very captious and particularly searching into all grants that pass in Ireland, and fail not to make their remarks.

Here is a nice hub-bub among the Prentices that we cannot yet come to the bottom of it, it beareth its share in provoking jealousies and discontents.

Postscript—Three posts have stopped by reason of the Plot.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, April 2. Clonmel.—I do not doubt but you have been informed of the trouble has arrived concerning Captain Spot's wedding, who brought a licence from the Archbishop of Cashel addressed to Dr. Ladyman, for to marry him to one Squire Dawson's daughter, but the Doctor being a sickly man could not perform it according to our desires; whereupon he writes a letter to Mr. Jonathan Brownsworth as his curate (I believe to trepan him) to officiate for him, which he very innocently did, not only to obey his vicar's desire but also to be complacent to us officers. Since which time Doctor Ladyman has sent to inform the Bishop of Waterford against him for marrying in the Diocese of Waterford without a licence and in Lent. The Bishop is so hot upon his attack that poor Mr. Brownsworth is like to be degraded; we are all very much concerned for him and have no other way for his defence but by humbly praying your lordship's assistance, and that you would be pleased to engage (if possible)

his Grace the Lord Lieutenant's favour to the end the Bishop may be stopped in his prosecution and Mr. Brownsworth remain as formerly.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, April 3rd. London.—The stop which was put on the two mails, which should have gone from hence the last post days, by order of the Council, prevented me paying my duty to your Grace till now. The reason of the embargo was a discovery brought before the Council by the Earl of Shaftesbury of some designs alleged to be of great danger to the kingdom of Ireland, the particulars whereof your Grace will (I presume) be better informed of by Mr. Secretary Coventry, for it was thought so great a secret that the Clerks of the Council were commanded to withdraw, which we had no reason to complain of since it was at first debated whether it should be communicated to the Council in general, and was requested by the discoverer (at least as my Lord Shaftesbury reported) that your Grace should not be made acquainted with it till some persons were brought out of Ireland. Upon these debates it was thought fit to desire His Majesty's presence here from Newmarket, and after his arrival those orders were made which your Grace will receive from Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Here hath likewise been another dangerous design as is pretended of a rising of the apprentices, who intended on the 29th of May next to burn the Rump (as they term it) in contempt of the Presbyterians, as they usually have done the Pope on other occasions. Though many honest and well-meaning men think this and the apprentices' dear delights of bonfires and ale was the bottom of this Plot, yet some that pretend to have dived farther into it report that they were animated and encouraged by some persons to this rising, and that several of the Presbyterians were to be destroyed in the tumult.

Last night Sir William Waller brought the examinations of three apprentices (who are at present in the gate-house) to the Council, in one of which it is said that one Alford (who was to have been their captain, as they termed him had told them that he had listed several thousands of apprentices, that he could command 300 or 400 pounds if there were occasion for the design of burning the Rump, and that the Guards would join with them. And farther, that Ossory (so he is pleased familiarly to call him) would assist them and encourage them in it. This, though in the highest degree ridiculous to all mankind of common understanding 'and justice, yet is made great use of by some persons who would maliciously lay an aspersion upon his lordship.

Yesterday was likewise brought before the Council an examination wherein it did appear that some agents of the Duke of Bucks (with whom Sir William Waller and one Mr.

Barnesly, another Justice of Peace, had joined) had been industriously endeavouring to suborn and corrupt one Philip Lamar, who had formerly accused the said Duke of sodomy with himself, to deny all the former accusation, and fix a design upon the Lord Danby, the Earl of Sunderland and indeed partly upon the King himself of a conspiracy of taking away the said Duke's life. The contrivance did very visibly appear by several particulars too long to trouble your Grace with, but the resolution of the Board was that Mr. Justice Barnesly is turned out of the commission, an order of Council that Lamar shall be suffered to speak or converse with no person but by order of the Board, and that Mr. Attorney General prefer a Bill of Indictment for sodomy against the said Duke to the Grand Jury as soon as possible.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, April 3rd.—You will hear many rumours spread abroad by our enemies to blast our reputations, but I hope those artifices will not take effect. The enclosed examinations Sir William Waller showed me, pretending respect, before he gave them into the Council. How these things have been enlarged in coffee-houses, saying that you and I were in a design of betraying Ireland to France, has been also discoursed; but as in all this matter they could not find any colour of probability, so I think the visible falsity of those reports have rather done us good than harm, it showing the animosity and grounds upon which our ruin is aimed at. If you can serve the King in the Parliament I hope it may be a means to frustrate the designs of those who wish not only ours but the destruction of the Crown. Mr. Thynne has written a very honest letter to my brother about his own concern. I wish he were employed with all my heart; but without disobliging my Lord of Sunderland, who professes great respects for you, I know not how you can put a person into the agency that is not in any station or that has not some relation to him. I never see Sir Cyril Wyche and know not how you are satisfied with him; at all adventures if it were practicable I wish Thynne in his room. Possibly by the next I may write you some news.

SAME to SAME.

1680, April 6th.—I shall not fail to acquaint my Lady Elizabeth Felton with that part of your letter which concerns her, and to give you an account how that affair is like to go. Mr. Churchill dying without a will leaves many disputes, which I think are not yet decided. If they can get you the bonds as you mention, then you will be secure upon payment from further trouble. My Lord of Sunderland desired me that you would oblige him in employing one Benson in the agency of the Irish affairs. I told him that I was confident

you would comply with him in all you could, and in this particular I hope you will gratify him ; for I do not see how it is practicable to continue Mr. Thynne, who has no station in his office. Yours, and I may presume to say the King's enemies, use all their artifices to blast our reputations. I do consult with my friends and men of the law, and if I can get any punished that way I will not be wanting in so just a vindication.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, April 8th. Whitehall.—I have very little to trouble your Grace with from hence since what I wrote you by the two messengers that went hence on Saturday, of which I should be very glad to receive an account from your Grace.

Yesterday it was moved in Council that the Earl of Ranelagh might have leave to come into England in respect of his indisposition, but it not appearing to the Board what hindrance it might be to the clearing of his accounts, it was judged expedient that your Grace's opinion should be first known upon it, and that I may not be mistaken in my orders, I here send you a copy of the original order. It was likewise moved by the Lord Privy Seal that your Grace should be written to to take off the Earl of Tyrone's bail, but it was likewise the opinion of the Board that nothing should be resolved upon in that matter till your opinion were likewise known upon it, and I was likewise ordered to write to you for it. I send you here enclosed a copy of that order.

I cannot yet get a report from the Treasury of your order for Kinsale, they being adjourned till Wednesday next, when I am promised to have it. I shall not give you many more troubles of this nature, for though I cannot name the precise day I believe it will be hardly lengthened beyond the next week ; but though I may be in a station less troublesome and less serviceable to you than I am, I shall never be less faithful.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 10. Dublin.—After much expectation of the arrival of three packets the yacht came in and landed Sir William Petty here, who presently came to me and told me the packets were stayed by order at Holyhead till by like order they should be permitted to pass ; but he says they were not returned to London or searched, nor any person or other vessels but the packet boats under arrest. I confess I cannot comprehend for what reason an embargo should be only on the mails, and am the more to seek by what I saw in a letter from Chester of the 4th of this month, taking notice of the stop put on the packets at Holyhead, of a discovery of a Popish Irish plot before the English Council, and of the Duke of Ormond and Earl of Ossory being, as the letter terms it,

bespattered, only it brings into my memory what I heard of one Fitzgerald being sent for Ireland of a servant of Sir William Waller going with him to Bristol and discovering there Fitzgerald's being a cheat. Yet I have this day heard from Munster that he is arrived there under the tuition of two messengers of the Chamber. Putting all this together, I must suspect it is designed that the proceeding is intended to be concealed from me and from thence that something is informed against me. I know that whoever at this time shall come with a discovery in his hand must be countenanced, at least heard, and examinations given way to by the King, else it will be said great matters would have been found out if he had given way to it, which gives occasion to lament the condition he is in rather than to murmur at his compliance. Yet it is something extraordinary to have inquiry made after treasonable practices in Ireland and the Chief Governor left out, for if he be not to be trusted with that certainly he ought not to be with the kingdom. This goes by Sir Thomas Newcomen, a man I think very zealous in the King's service and a careful good officer. I would write more fully by him if I knew what [to say]. When he returns you may have the same confidence of a safe conveyance.

Two of the witnesses against the Earl of Tyrone I understand are gone into England, and I doubt not but that they will there make complaint, but whether against the Government, the judges, the jury, or against them all for the not finding the Bill, I know not. They had protection against all suits and molestation that they might attend the prosecution of their accusation, which being at an end I am told it was necessary for them to withdraw, one of them, namely McNamara, being accused for horse stealing, and the other called Hubert Bourke being liable to other suits. These are shrewd fellows; then one that calls himself Fitzgerald, a Franciscan friar that, I am told, has made much noise in England and has received countenance from a great man there. I still presume we shall be heard to anything that shall be objected against our proceeding, and therefore I say no more.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1680, April 10th. Dublin.—You may remember upon what account and upon what information the titular Primate was apprehended and other Popish Bishops sought for, and that I gave you notice of the apprehension of the Primate, who has ever since lain in the Castle for no other reason (known to him or to any other but myself here) than his presuming to stay here in contempt of the proclamation. I have forborne hitherto to have him examined upon the particular he is charged with, in expectation of some further light into the matter, which is of such a nature that he will certainly deny his having any part in it, and then we shall

want anything wherewith to convince him or draw any acknowledgment from him that may lead towards a discovery of the truth. I put you now again in mind of this affair, because that the person from whom the first notice came is returned into England, and that another titular Bishop is taken whose name is Creagh and is styled Bishop of Cork. Though you should be out of the secretary's place yet I hold it most proper for me to address myself to you for a signification of His Majesty's pleasure in this particular till he shall think fit to direct me otherwise.

We have notice by passengers of a stop put upon the packets at Holyhead, where there are now four that might be here, the wind standing fair. There are many conjectures made upon it, of which some reflect upon me, as if there were some great discovery to be made with which I am not fit to be trusted. A short time may let us see what the matter is. I send this by Sir Thomas Newcomen, one of the Privy Council, and a faithful servant of the King's. He says he will ride post.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, April 10th.—I received this day yours of the 31st of March, and have often reflected on those things you mentioned in it relating to a Parliament. I confess my insufficiency to offer anything tending to advise, but being encouraged by your letter I hope you will not take amiss my expressing my thoughts upon this subject so important to the King's and your interest. If you believe Ireland is not so infected with those ill humours which abound here, and that your ill wishers as well as those averse to the Government would be sorry you should have the honour of settling it, and putting it in a posture which may render it secure will not have power to prevent supplies, there is no doubt but a meeting ought to be pressed with all imaginable vigour. On the other hand, if you believe the malignity of men to be such as to prevent your good intentions, I think your safest course would be to let the King know the motives on which you have altered your mind, the many accidents which have happened since your giving that counsel affording you many reasons for such a variation. When I consider how much a Parliament doing their duty can contribute to the safety of the kingdom, and that the fault is not yours if they act otherwise, and that in such case they may be dismissed without inconveniencies visible to me of a high nature, I confess I am for the affirmative. In all events you will observe much of the behaviour of many in the army who certainly ought to be dealt withal according as they behave themselves on this occasion; that my Lord of Essex will endeavour to cross you by his friends there, to render himself necessary for your employment, and that he will use all manner of artifices to lay reproach on such bills as you transmit, is to be expected from his ingenuity.

To send Mr. Solicitor, if you rely upon him, or some able lawyer, were, I think, a better and shorter way to come to an issue than by way of replies ; in one thing the King's mind were good to be soon known, which is whether he will be pleased to have anything in the bills appropriating such monies as shall be given to the use of that kingdom, or whether he will any other way signify that to be his purpose which will more easily bring him supplies. His Majesty on Monday next come sennight intends for Windsor, but will once a week come to Council at Whitehall. I do imagine committees will sit about most affairs in his absence, which I believe will continue until the middle of September at least.

Having showed my letter to my Lord Chamberlain, his opinion is that you should not move the King concerning appropriating of what shall be given otherwise than as you may be advised by the Council as a thing arising from them and not foreseen by you. He approves of Mr. Solicitor's ability, but fears by many ties as well as my Lord of Essex's late endeavouring to have him made Attorney here, that he may be induced to do you ill offices in delaying the sitting and good effects of Parliament. He advises your complimenting by letter Sir Lionel Jenkins upon his employment, who professes upon all occasions particular and great respects for you, and that you would desire him and his predecessor to attend carefully the affairs of the Committee for Irish affairs. He is on the milk diet, which agrees well with him ; he hopes you will not forget sending him the hawks you promised him. This I write in his presence, who desires that his compliments may be made to you and excuses for half a year's silence, and resolving to mend, he intends to do it in this as well as in other things. The longer James is at Oxford the more prejudice it is to him. I think if he were in Monsieur Faubert's academy here it would be the best course that now could be taken ; he might there follow both his studies and his exercises.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, April 10. London.—I had nothing to trouble your Grace with by the last post. All that was done the last Council day relating to Ireland was comprised in the two orders, one concerning the Earl of Ranelagh, the other the Earl of Tyrone, transmitted to your Grace by Mr. Secretary Coventry. The putting Sir William Waller, who hath been a very busy man here, out of the Commission of the Peace, and the whole account of the ill practices used by him and several others in the matter relating to the Duke of Buckingham the printed papers are very full in.

His Majesty intends to go to Windsor on Monday night, where he resides all the summer, only once a week to be in London at Council. Before His Majesty's removal he intends

to take a new review of the Justices of the Peace in all the counties of England. I am likewise just now commanded to summon a Committee for suppressing Popery to meet on Wednesday morning, as also to give notice to the judges to attend at that time in order to the giving an account of the success of the commissions for tendering the oaths of supremacy sent to the several counties by order of this Board.

Next week Mr. Secretary Coventry intends to resign up the seals to Sir Lionel Jenkins.

ANONYMOUS.

1680, April 10. Worcester.—Dear brother, We are almost distracted with rumours of plots and massacres in Dublin, and do admire I hear not from you. It almost startles me in sending or coming, but in regard I hear not from you therein I am in hopes that it's not true, though I saw a letter from a very honourable gentleman and a friend of mine, Sir Henry Capel, a late Privy Councillor, written to Sir Francis Russell, wherein he tells him that there is a most horrid plot discovered to be in Ireland by very great persons of quality; the particulars are kept so private that the clerks and the attorneys and solicitors were all turned out by the King's command, and the King and Council unanimously voted a damnable plot, and blank warrants are sent over to apprehend great men. The soliciting party in the management is committed to the Earl of Essex and Shaftesbury. Our Parliament is prorogued till the 15th of May. Dear Ned, I need not advise you how to steer affairs, but not too confident of your country's strength. I hope ere I take my voyage and journey we may have a letter from you. Pray be as nimble as you can.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 12. Dublin.—I have received yours of the 3rd with the copies of the examinations concerning the 'prentices. I do not so much wonder at the scandals cast upon us now as that it was not done sooner. But it was necessary to amuse the people, as with new plots so with new actors in them, and we were not forgotten but reserved for the last. The discoveries now on foot in the north and in the west of this kingdom can come to nothing by reason of the extravagant villainy and folly of the discoverers, who are such creatures that no schoolboy would trust them with a design for the robbing of an orchard. My Lord of Essex's tool is a silly drunken vagabond that cares not for hanging a month hence if in the meantime he may solace himself with brandy and tobacco. Murphy is all out as debauched, but a degree wiser than the other. The other fellow brought by my Lord of Shaftesbury to the Council broke prison being in execution, and now the sheriff or jailor are sued for the debt. This is

their true character, but perhaps not fit for you to give of them. If rogues they must be that discover roguery, these must be the best discoverers, because they are the greatest rogues.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 14. Dublin.—I received yours of the 6th next day after Sir Tho. Newcomen parted hence with all the despatches I wrote by that post. Fitzgerald's errand into Munster is no secret here, nor yet that his undertaking of finding dangerous papers walled up in a ruinous Abbey has failed. It is a great misfortune to the discoverers of plots in this kingdom that my Lord of Orrery is not alive; he would have done his part here as well as the other cripple in England. But his brother Shannon is a plain, honest gentleman, and was ill pitched upon by my Lord of Essex for such an employment. If shipping was to be had at Cork, Youghal, or Kinsale, that gentleman is returned with his guard of messengers—the other that landed here is with his principal informer gone on their northern expedition. I hope a week will finish that work on this side, yet it may be necessary to keep up the noise, lest perhaps a Parliament should sit in May. If this grow stale during a longer interval another may easily be substituted. If jail birds liable to hanging or starving will serve the turn, my Lord Sunderland shall have who he pleases in the Irish agency.

ORMOND to SIR CYRIL WYCHE.

1680, April 14, Dublin.—I was glad to receive yours from London of the 3rd inst., hoping that by your solicitation these things depending in the report of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will have the better and speedier despatch. The bills in order to the calling of a Parliament here will, I doubt not, be transmitted hence by the end of May as is required by his Majesty's order in Council; against that time you shall be furnished with a list of them, and with what the chief of them import, to save you the labour of reading them over or to direct you in the doing it. There have arrived two discoverers of plots here—one in Munster and another in this place. I hear the Munster informer has not satisfied those he led to find out papers in the wall of an old Abbey; he that landed here is gone in search of witnesses guarded with three horsemen of the army and two messengers that come with him. I expect their return by the end of this week, and then they shall not stay long here.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1680, April 14, St. James's Square.—The necessity of my own affairs and the opportunity of the likely vacation of business here upon the King's being at Newmarket carried

me for a little while down to Norfolk where the misfortune of a fall from my horse kept me for some few days longer than I proposed, but on notice of the arrival of Irish letters I made what haste I could to town and am come home this night. I was extremely rejoiced to find here the honour of your Grace's commands by two of Mr. Ellis's of the 10th and 17th past. Those two businesses you have been pleased now to transmit I will take immediate care of, and of the rest that are mentioned as soon as they come to hand, and whatever you shall think fit to command my care in, and from time to time give a just and early account of every circumstance relating to any of them. That I have not hitherto troubled your Grace as frequently as the relation you vouchsafe to honour me with might have justified me in, has proceeded only from my fear of abusing that liberty, thinking it indecent in me to take up your time with matters of no moment, who have constantly so many weighty affairs in your hands, when I have had none at all in mine. But whenever you shall be pleased to make use of my industry, my utmost application shall never be wanting.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1680, April 14, Dublin.—Whatever you may be from other you are not like to be absolutely free from this kind of trouble from me, and you see by my leaving off the ceremony of beginning and ending my letters how I intend to treat you and desire to be treated by you, and tho' you are in some degree gotten out of the storm, I do not doubt but you will afford all the light you can to the friends you have left in the violence of it to keep them ashore. I will not conceal from you the reasons that keep me in it, when a few lines importing a desire to retreat could help me out of it, if there be any place to which it would not follow me on this side heaven. My first reason is that methinks the Crown and Monarchy and my bountiful master are too apparently threatened for a man that pretends to honour and gratitude to make a voluntary resignation, at least whilst he has vigour or vanity enough to persuade him he can contribute considerably to serve an interest he is obliged unto.

The next is that I have a little stomach left yet that rises at the thought of giving some men their will just when they would have it of me. And in the last place it may be thought that the grandeur and emolument belonging to the station may be of force; and I will not deny but it is. But if I know myself it would not prevail against the quiet of body and mind that may reasonably be believed I wish for at these years and might hope for in a retreat.

Upon the whole matter it is so probable that this place and I must part, and that when we shall this kingdom will not be a fit place for my residence, that I really wish I had an habitation within the distance of neighbourhood to your lodge and do

seriously desire you to inform me if any such can be had by purchase or otherwise. You will judge it is not fit I should be named in it and you will as easily, I hope, believe I should take great delight in your conversation.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, April 17.—By this you will hear that his Majesty has been pleased to call me to his Council, which he did in the most obliging manner that could be; in this particular the Duke endeavoured and showed me much good will, and Mr. Hyde expressed in this and all other concerns very much regard to you and your interest.

My Lord President is very civil to me, and desired me, out of his respects to you, to mind you of examining well the matter of my Lord of Tyrone's being acquitted by the grand jury, there being, as is said, four witnesses against him. I am of opinion, and so is my Lord Chamberlain, that a letter from you to him of compliment considering his station were not ill placed; if it met with the same success as that you writ to my Lord of Shaftesbury, I think the mortification may be easily borne, but by his behaviour towards me I do expect other and better returns. Mr. Secretary being ill, I did from him communicate your letters with the Portugal information to the Council which caused some sport, his Majesty being present, with them also a relation of what was done in the affair of my Lord Brittas and others, to which no answer was requisite. I shall make the best use I can of your letters of the 10th and 12th of this month brought me by Sir Thomas Newcomen, who I shall countenance and be glad to serve on all occasions. The late accident you will hear from other hands.

HENRY THYNNE to ORMOND.

1680, April 17, Whitehall.—The return of a fit of the gout having confined Mr. Secretary to his bed is the reason your Grace receives the enclosed in a strange hand, and that I presume to acquaint your Grace of the arrival of yours of the 10th and two of the 12th instant, together with one from yourself and Council of the 7th, all which have been communicated to his Majesty and Council, and not the least exception that I can hear of made to any part of them.

This I presume will be one of the last I shall trouble your Grace with whilst Mr. Secretary continues under that character, resolving to-morrow (if he be able) or at farthest on Wednesday to give up his seals, at which time I shall likewise quit the Secretary's office, but never the zeal I have for your Grace's service nor the ambition of being, &c.

Postscript.—The enclosed newsletter will acquaint you at large with the news of this place. The King and all the Court go to Windsor on Monday.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, April 17, London.—His Majesty was pleased yesterday to call in my Lord of Ossory to the Council, who was that day sworn of the Privy Council and took his place at the Board, at which time was read an account of a very barbarous action committed the night before on Mr. Arnold, the particulars whereof this enclosed order will give your Grace an account.

On the 18th of this instant Mr. Arnold was to have had a hearing at the Council Board against one Mr. Herbert, which, with some words accidentally let fall, hath been so unhappy a circumstance to Mr. Herbert that he is committed to Newgate for suspicion of felony by warrant from the Board. Besides this order there was likewise another to the Lord Mayor of London and another to the Justices of Peace of Westminster to make forthwith a more diligent search for all Papists who were harboured in their respective jurisdictions contrary to the many proclamations which commanded them so often to depart from the town, and likewise a letter written to the Warden of the Company of Chirurgeons to make inquiries whether any person lately wounded in the leg had been with any of that profession. There was likewise a report read from the Committee of Popery which was to this effect. The judges being summoned before that committee to give an account what was the success of the commissions and instructions for putting the laws in execution against Papists in their general circuits, acquainted their lordships that they found great readiness in all places for putting them in execution, and that most of the Papists named in the commissions were already convicted, but that they shifted their counties, and did not appear upon their summons in many places, endeavouring thereby to avoid the prosecution intended by the said commissions.

Whereupon it was ordered that all those who had gone out of their counties should be prosecuted upon the statute which inflicts penalties upon Papists that go above five miles from the place of their habitations, they being most of them convicted before, and also that the judges should make returns of all such as were convicted in their several circuits to the Lords of the Treasury, in order to their proposing to His Majesty such an election of the penalties inflicted by law upon Papists convict as shall be most penal to them, and most advantageous for His Majesty's service, whether by receiving the two-thirds of their estates, the 20*l* *per mensem* or any other legal forfeitures.

This afternoon His Majesty being at a committee for the review of the Justices of the Peace, the letters from your Grace of the 7th, 10th and 12th of this instant to Mr. Secretary Coventry were read with the inclosed. Your Grace will receive a particular account from Mr. Secretary Coventry of the transactions of the Board in relation to Bourke and Macnamara, to whom I have by order transmitted them,

ORDER IN COUNCIL

(entered in foregoing letter).

AT THE COURT AT WHITEHALL. April the Sixteenth, 1680.

Present : The King's Most Excellent Majesty.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| His Highness Prince Rupert. | Earl of Essex. |
| Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. | Earl of Bath. |
| Lord Chancellor. | Viscount Fauconberg. |
| Lord President. | Lord Bishop of London. |
| Lord Privy Seal. | Mr. Hyde. |
| Duke of Lauderdale. | Lord Chief Justice North. |
| Marquess of Worcester. | Mr. Chancellor of the Ex- |
| Earl of Ossory. | chequer. |
| Lord Chamberlain. | Sir Leoline Jenkins. |
| Earl of Bridgewater. | Mr. Seymour. |
| Earl of Sunderland. | Mr. Godolphin. |

Whereas information hath been this day given to His Majesty in Council upon oath "That John Arnold, Esq., one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Monmouth, was the last night between the hours of nine and ten of the clock in Bell Yard, near Jack-an-apes Lane end, maliciously and feloniously assaulted, dangerously wounded and endeavoured to be assassinated by three persons unknown who are since fled (one of them being hurt in the leg), after which barbarous act one of the said three persons did utter these words to the said Mr. Arnold, 'Damme yee dog, now pray for the soul of Captain Evans, which Evans was a Jesuit executed in the County of Glamorgan, and who sometime before his apprehension had threatened to pistol the said Mr. Arnold: It is ordered by His Majesty in Council that the Lord Mayor of the City of London and the Justices of the Peace of the County of Middlesex and City of Westminster, do cause diligent search to be forthwith made within their several jurisdictions for the said persons, or any of them, or any that did incite, encourage or set them on to make that attempt.

And for an encouragement to all persons to use their utmost diligence herein, His Majesty is pleased to promise that there shall be the reward of one hundred pounds forthwith paid to any who shall discover or apprehend the said three persons, or any one of them, or any of those who did incite them thereunto. And if any one of the said three persons, being touched with remorse for that horrid fact, shall discover the same and his accomplices, His Majesty is graciously pleased to promise that he shall have his pardon for the same, besides the said reward.

And for the better notification hereof it is further directed, that this order be forthwith printed and published.

FRANCIS GWYN.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 19.—It is not perhaps a fit time for me formally to except at the proceedings of the Council there, in respect of the station I am in. But I think I have ground to complain of the suspicion expressed of me in the directions sent about Fitzgerald's discovery in Munster by letters from my Lord of Sunderland (I suppose as Secretary of State) and by my Lord of Essex I know not in what capacity, of which I had not the least intimation sent me, and even in that of Hethrington sent over with two messengers there are such restrictions as imply my unfitness to be trusted with the bottom of the affair, which with rumours in England of the unusual stop of the packets have not only given licence to popular discourses of me, but some umbrage to men of higher quality. This I could bear in respect of myself, but if the course be persisted in I shall certainly be less able to serve the King, which to do is the greatest delight I have in the place I hold.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, April 20, Whitehall.—I received this morning yours of the 14th of this month and shewed it His Majesty, who was much pleased with it, and expects such a return from the northern intelligencer as Fitzgerald's expedition has produced. I now come from Windsor in order to my wife's voyage, which she intends on Monday next come sennight to begin, and I shall follow her as soon as possible; my stay will only depend on those bills expected from you, which as soon as they are despatched, I will immediately after set forth. I heard a rumour as if something was intended by bill from the Council of Ireland to be sent hither, strengthening the lawful succession of the Crown. I am confident it is a mistake, since doing that would argue a doubt of a thing unquestionable, and consequently wound rather than serve those most concerned. I intreat your answer, since a considerable friend of yours told me there was such an intimation given. Upon my asking leave of the Queen to wait on you, she said if it were practicable she would also go, for to visit you and my mother would be to her one of the things in the world that would give her most satisfaction. I told her both of you should know it, so if both of you say a word or two upon this subject in a letter to me it will be very well received.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1680, April 20, St. James's Square.—At my return out of the country, I brought an indisposition along with me, which proved a violent fever, and made me keep my bed for some days; as soon as I found myself unable to rise I sent for Mr. Muls (my Lord of Ossory's secretary) and acquainting him with the matters I had in charge from your Grace, desired his immediate care of them, and an account of your Grace

of what he did, which he tells me he has transmitted. My distemper, though very sharp for the time, has not proved long, so that (I thank God) I am upon my legs again and abroad; and yesterday morning, being the first time the Commissioners of the Treasury have met since their adjournment upon the 3rd inst., I got the draught of the letter for money for the fort at Rincorran with the reference upon it read. The Lords do not at all stick at the matter of it, but there being mention made of an account already transmitted under Mr. Robinson's hand of 11557*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* laid out to the 25 Feb. last, they think it necessary in point of form to see that account and be possessed of it, as one of the chief grounds of this letter before they pass it, nor would that clause in the letter, whereby an exact account of the whole upon oath (of which this is to be a part) is required to be sent over, when the money is all laid out, serve the turn, but that they insist upon having this first, as being alleged to have been sent hither already. I went to Mr. Thynne as the likeliest hand to find it in, and he searched all his papers for several months but found none, so that if your Grace please to cause another copy of it from Mr. Robinson's books to be transmitted I see no further difficulty. I most humbly thank your Grace for the honour of yours of the 14th inst.; it came speedily, for I had it last night. As soon as I receive the bills mentioned, I shall carefully observe your Grace's directions.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 23^r St. George's Day, Dublin.—Yours of the 17th to your mother and me are received, and a yacht shall be sent to Liverpool to receive my daughter's orders as soon as she returns from a voyage she is upon with ladies to Chester, but for a man-of-war none is to be expected—the only one appointed for the service of this kingdom being called for by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty. If the Algerines be what you fear, I think you are safe enough. The only one that ever I heard of come so far as this harbour in the Channel having been without doubt driven up by a storm, and besides I am assured there will be two frigates forthwith sent to cruise betwixt the Lizard and Cape Clear. Your Lord President has been too long so for a congratulatory letter upon that account, and is a man that may perhaps love to receive but cares not to return compliments. Besides I had no sooner performed the ceremony to his predecessor but he turned tail, and it has been the fortune of all I have courted to become useless as soon as my friends, so that for luck's sake I forbear till I see you.

The messengers are upon their return with a cargo of wittnesses such as they are. Yet they are the best any market in this kingdom will yet afford. The last of the men for recruits for Tanger have been about a fortnight ready at Kinsale for transportation, so that I do not only wonder at

the confidence of those that wrote the contrary from Ireland, but something at the belief given to them by the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, April 24, London.—The Lords of the Council have spent most of their time this week in examining some persons suspected to have a hand in that barbarous attempt upon Mr. Arnold, but as yet cannot make any considerable discovery, though there are two persons committed upon suspicion.

His Majesty is at present at Windsor, where he hath had a great cold, was yesterday morning let blood, and is (God be thanked) much better. He intends to be in London on Monday morning next, at which time there will be a Committee of Intelligence, who are to have Sir Gilbert Gerard before them, he being sent for out of Yorkshire by Mr. Duppa, one of the gentlemen ushers of the Privy Chamber. The particulars I shall be better able to give your Grace an account of by the next post.

The Turkey Company yesterday made an election of the Lord Chandos for their Ambassador, and they are this day gone to wait upon His Majesty at Windsor in order to desire His Majesty's approbation. There were several competitors for it, but Mr. Thomas Thynne, son of Sir Henry Frederick, came nearest to my Lord Chandos, he having 75 votes and my Lord 81.

The King intending to go to Newmarket on Tuesday hath put off the Council's meeting till Friday next in the afternoon, which is the time he designs to return from Newmarket.

ORMOND to HENRY THYNNE.

1680, April 25, Dublin.—I could wish Mr. Secretary could part with his gout and keep his seals; however till I am authentically informed that the thing is done, my despatches will be directed to him, as you will find by that sent by the messengers in return to what they brought, and though I were so informed, yet Mr. Secretary continuing of the Council, he must expect the trouble of being made acquainted with what passes here, that he may afford his assistance upon occasion. It would have been some compensation of the loss I sustain in Mr. Secretary's demission if you had continued in the office, as the continuance of your friendship is for your quitting, which I desire you to believe is very much valued by, &c.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, April 27, London.—His Majesty having commanded an extraordinary Council to be called yesterday in the evening, at which His Royal Highness and all the judges were

commanded to be present, was pleased to take notice of a false and seditious report lately spread abroad that Dr. Cosin, late Bishop of Durham, did at his death leave a box sealed up with directions it should not be opened till after His Majesty's death ; that notwithstanding some persons having had the curiosity to open the said box, there was pretended to be found therein a writing importing a marriage or contract of marriage between His Majesty and the Duke of Monmouth's mother.

And it being likewise reported that Sir Gilbert Gerard had seen the said writing or had it in his custody, Sir Gilbert Gerard was called in before His Majesty and the Council ; to whom this following question was (by His Majesty's order and by the advice of the Privy Council and by the opinion of all the judges) proposed, viz., Whether you know of or have seen any writing importing a marriage or contract of marriage between His Majesty and the Duke of Monmouth's mother ? To which Sir Gilbert Gerard, having taken his oath upon the Holy Evangelists made this answer : I never saw any such writing nor was there ever any such committed to my custody, nor do I know of any such thing, to which he subscribed his name. After which His Majesty (declaring he resolved to use all means possible to find out the authors of this seditious report which he himself knew to be so abominably false) required all the Lords of the Council and the judges there present to give an account of what discourses they had heard of concerning that matter. To which they all answered they had heard nothing of it but a flying and imperfect report lately discoursed of ; only the Earl of Essex acquainted His Majesty that a gentleman (Col. Roderick Mansell) had told him of some particular discourse he had lately heard relating to that matter. His Majesty thereupon commanded the said Earl of Essex and Mr. Secretary Jenkins to examine the said gentleman or any other person named by him in order to trace up the said false report to the first authors and inventors of it. It was ordered hereupon that a narrative of this whole matter should be entered in the Council-book.

After the Council, which was taken up wholly with this affair, a committee of foreign affairs met where the Lord Chandos, who the day before had His Majesty's approbation to succeed Sir John Finch as Ambassador at Constantinople, upon his lordship's desire came to acknowledge his error which he had formerly been guilty of in signing the petition for the sitting of the Parliament, and beg His Majesty's pardon for the same, alleging for his excuse that he did not know it was contrary to His Majesty's pleasure, and did then think it might have been for his Majesty's service.

Sir Lionel Jenkins this day received the seals from His Majesty's own hands, Mr. Secretary Coventry not being able to come abroad, and was according sworn Secretary in the room of Mr. Coventry.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, April 27, Dublin.—The messengers that brought Hethrington—my Lord of Shaftesbury's agent—went on ship-board I think on Sunday with all his ten but may be still tiding it over, the wind being but little and that contrary. There must go in my opinion much skill to make anything material out of their narratives and as much indulgence to make them creditable witnesses. However, the great care that is taken of them here, and that will be taken on the way to London will for some time keep up the reputation of the matter. There has been great industry used to make it believed all over England that Ireland is on the brink of confusion and cutting of throats, insomuch that traders have stopped their traffic and sent to know if their correspondents be alive, and I think I shall be able to prove Sir Henry Capel to have been a principal promoter of the report, if I can procure his original letter, of which the enclosed is an extract as to the substance; but till I can get that it is not fit to make business of or publish the information; in the meantime I am sure this kingdom has not been so quiet as it is at this instant these forty years. Fitzgerald's expedition was set afoot whilst the King was at Newmarket. If His Majesty find no objection against it, I should humbly beseech him that I may have copies of the letters and instructions that were sent which may be had out of the Secretary's Office, and the Council-books. It will appear by Sir Hans Hamilton's examination that he sent my Lord of Essex some examinations that seemed to be of more consequence than any I have seen produced, and if it was his lordship that moved I should be called to for the Portugal letter, and that found in Fleming the Tory's pocket, he may as well be called to for those more material papers, but I confess it will be hard to call a Chief Governor to account for any of those thousands of papers he must receive in three or four years time, but it is easy for any man to pay or for any knave to swear to the contents of a letter that cannot be produced. After I had written thus far, Sir Hans Hamilton brought me his original letter to Sir George Rawdon after he had taken the examination of Moyer the friar, now sent with the messengers to London, and Sir George Rawdon's letter to him concerning it, by both which it will appear that Sir Hans according to his duty sent the examination to the Earl of Essex, and what account he made of it at that time. I send you copies of the letters that you may understand the matter. The originals are sent to Mr. Secretary. If this letter should come to you before the Pursuivant I send with two prisoners goes to Mr. Secretary, you are not to take notice of what you receive, that is care to be taken that the matter be not made public till the King and Council shall think fit to have it so.

1680, May day.—Now that I am gotten to this side of the leaf I think good to let you know of a new stratagem I am told

out of England will be practised to render my service in the Government ineffectual, which is to send me directions to prepare such bills to be transmitted hence against the Papists as for their severity may be inconsistent with the condition of this kingdom where the body of the people, and of those that drive the trade of the kingdom, are of that religion. If I refuse to return them my inclination to Popery will be thought apparent. If I send them, and they should pass, and be put in execution, the Revenue must sink, and that with all the ill consequence will how unreasonably soever be laid to my charge, and though I should have the unanimous concurrence of the Council either in sending or not sending, that will not absolve me because it will be said I influence or awe them. The prevention of this difficulty, if there should be a design to put it upon the King's service, is only in him, and he cannot want reasons against any such directions, but I think the safest for him to give will be that as the constitution for calling of Parliaments provides that the bills in order to it should be left to the direction of the Chief Governor and Council, who are reasonably presumed to be the most competent judges of what may be fittest to pass into laws, so he can find no precedent of any directions sent from the Council of England in the like case; but if His Majesty shall think it unreasonable for him to interfere his authority in the case, I am not so much afraid of the device but that I hope I shall be able to frustrate what shall be aimed at by it.

EARL OF AILESBUURY to ORMOND.

1680, April 29, Newmarket.--Having so good an opportunity by this worthy bearer to present my humble respects to your Grace, I take the liberty to renew my assurances to you of the sense I have of your constant favours to me. If it were not a public concern that your Grace should be where you are, I will assure you that as to your friends here it is no little trouble to be deprived so long of a person so esteemed of all that are firm to King and Government; but when we consider how necessary your being there is to the preservation of peace and quietness in that kingdom we must submit. The diversions of this place Sir Nicholas will inform your Grace most punctually. I was never here before this time since I waited on you here. Besides my private concerns which have been great of these late years, much of my time hath been employed in looking after what is entrusted to me by His Majesty. I have had no little share of the calumnies that have been laid of late on those who endeavour to keep things in the old frame both as to Church and State. That God may preserve you long to be a prop and support of both is the hearty prayer of, &c.

Postscript.—I am my lady's most devoted servant. This place will afford me no better paper to write with.

ORMOND to the MAYOR and CITIZENS of KILKENNY.

1680. April 30th.—After our hearty commendations, whereas Richard Reeves, Esq., is lately chosen Recorder of this city, and as he informs us intends to resign that of the City of Kilkenny, we, particularly knowing and being very well satisfied of the fitness and ability of Arthur Turner, Esq., one of His Majesty's Council learned in the laws to succeed in that employment, do hereby think fit to recommend him effectually to you as one we shall very well approve of to succeed in it. And so we bid you heartily farewell. From His Majesty's Castle of Dublin.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, May 1st, London.—The last Council day was taken up wholly with the more particular inquiry into the rumour spread abroad concerning the Duke of Monmouth, several persons being then examined, amongst the rest one who seems to fix something upon Sir Thomas Armstrong, and who likewise saith he had 30*l.* given him by the Duke of Monmouth to bear his charges of a journey into the North, whither he went to inquire of some kind of evidence which was pretended to be there relating to a marriage between His Majesty and the Duke of Monmouth's mother. Several other persons are sent for in order to a further discovery of the authors of that report. His Majesty, after the Council, was entertained at a supper by Sir Jonathan Raymond, one of the Sheriffs of London, and this morning early returned to Windsor.

The Earl of Thanet hath enjoyed his title but a little while and died the last week, that title and estate of the late Lord Thanet (as well as that of the elder brother) falling to Capt. Richard Tufton, one of the Captains of Col. Russell's regiment.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 1st.—I am desired by this bearer, Mr. St. John, to recommend him by letter to your favour. He is brother to one of the same name who some months since was murdered by the Tories. He is very zealous to find out means for extirpating that sort of wicked men. I here enclosed send you a copy of that bond due to late Mr. Churchill, upon payment whereof my Lord of Suffolk will deliver it according to your direction. He gives this money to his daughter who earnestly desires to know the time when by your means she may receive the benefit of her father's bounty. This is all the trouble I shall give you by this occasion.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, May 8, London.—On the 7th instant the messengers, Bradly and Atterbury, arrived here out of Ireland with Murphy, Moyer, Callaghan and Henan in their custody, and

Edrington and Fitzgerald in their company. Notice being given of their arrival to the Lord President in the morning, his lordship sent a messenger to give His Majesty an account of it at Windsor, and appointed an extraordinary Council in the afternoon, to which the Earl of Ossory and Mr. Secretary Jenkins with some instructions from His Majesty came from Windsor. The four persons above named were called in and sworn, and the Clerks of the Council took their examinations as well as it was possible, but they not expressing themselves very intelligibly, they are ordered to be kept separate from one another and from any other company, and this day to send in their informations in writing, signed by their hands and sealed up to the Clerk of the Council in writing. There was likewise this day read before the Board the examinations of Sir Hans Hamilton, Captain Richard Bolton, and Lieut. Henry Baker transmitted by your Grace to Mr. Secretary Coventry with your Grace's letters of the 23rd and 24th of April, which is all that is done in that affair till the next Council day, at which time His Majesty will be present.

Wednesday, the 5th, His Majesty being present, as also His Royal Highness, several persons were examined concerning the report of the pretended marriage of His Majesty with the Duke of Monmouth's mother, and one Mr. William Disney and Mr. Robert Clynton, who had appeared to be very inquisitive and officiously solicitous in that affair, being ordered to attend the Board in order to a farther examination, went out of town, on purpose as it seemed to avoid it, whereupon warrants are issued out to take the said Disney and Clynton into custody and bring them before the Board.

EARL OF OSSORY TO ORMOND.

1680, May 8th.—We are under great engagements of secrecy, but I believe I break them not in sending you these informations. My Lord President upon the arrival of these fellows called yesterday a Council, and being at Windsor when notice of it came to me, the King commanded me from thence immediately to attend it, the result of which you see by the enclosed. I cannot but wonder that my Lord of Essex, who is now so diligent in discovering Irish plots, and who knew from Sir Hans Hamilton something of this business, as appears by one of the papers you sent, should not have taken notice of it when he was in the Government, or advertised you at his leaving it. I return this evening to Windsor, and to-morrow shall be back hither, my wife intending to begin her journey on Tuesday next. If I had money I would purchase a very pretty house with great gardens; a thousand pounds it will only cost. It was once my Lady Cranborne's at Twicnam. If you would think of it everybody says it is a pretty box for retirement or for children and a great bargain.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, May 8th, Whitehall.—Since I am by the King's most gracious pleasure to serve in the function of Secretary, I humbly take leave to offer your Grace my best and faithfulest service wherever you shall judge me capable of executing your orders. I know that I make this step out of my province, but it is the sincere and deep veneration that I have for your Grace that carries me beyond my bounds. What my late Lord of Canterbury hath taught and enjoined me in point of faithful observerance towards your Grace I must always remember and practise; and 'tis no more but what the merits of your glorious life would have extorted from me, had I never been admitted to the honour of approaching your person, as I have been often by your great condescension. You will, my Lord, receive from my Lord of Sunderland the result of what is to be done further, when His Majesty hath had an account of what those persons that are come over with Hethrington have deposed. I only take leave to enclose what the Clerk of the Council gave me by way of extract of what they said last night, as they were examined in Council.

ORMOND to SIR L. JENKINS.

1680, May 10, Dublin.—If have not congratulated your access to the Secretary's place till I was sure you were possessed of it, I desire you would not impute it to my want of satisfaction in it, though I must confess there are very few besides yourself that could have succeeded your predecessor but that I should have thought myself a great loser by the exchange, and though the course of the offices may direct my public despatches to another hand, yet I do ask your leave sometimes to trouble you with duplicates, that when you shall hear the originals read at Council, you may not want that preparation and notice of the subject which I am sure you can and will employ so usefully to the King's service, I doubt not with friendliness to me, who have long had your person and qualifications in high esteem.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 15, London.—This enclosed relation of one of His Majesty's physicians will inform you of the hopeful condition His Majesty is in, which will relieve you as well as it has done all honest men out of the great apprehensions which so just fears did create in them. I do constantly attend the Council, and whenever it meets, as sometimes it does on the sudden. I immediately repair from hence unto it. The informers with additional papers from my Lord of Essex are sent unto you. I should be sorry such an objection could be laid to either yours or my charge as appears in his lordship's by having so long important informations if they prove so, and not to

have given notice then in so long time as appears by the date of them. I beseech you to remember that you told me Sir Richard Stephens had satisfied my Lord Chancellor, otherwise I should not have countenanced him to the degree I did. Your commands made me desirous to forward his pretensions, and I beseech you to let my Lord Chancellor, know that upon these grounds I acted. I hope you will compose matters between them. I have and ever had that kindness and respect for my Lord Chancellor, as I should think myself very unhappy if I did anything displeasing unto him, being confident of his integrity and moderation not to demand from his friends things either hard or unjust. I send you Sir Richard Stephens' letter, of which you may make use, or else burn it after your reading of it. I got my Lord Chancellor's petition, desiring a month's time to be read, which was granted. You well know who are not much his friends no more than they are yours. The hurry and post haste in which many affairs at the board are despatched is not to be imagined. I need not therefore mind you how necessary it is to keep authentic copies of all papers. I wish my son from Oxford and in Fauberts' Academy, until we see what comes of an affair relating to his marriage, of which I do not despair.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, May 15, at ten at night, Whitehall.—I gave your grace the best account I was able of the state of His Majesty's health as it stood yesterday at 9 o'clock in the morning. That which I have to add will be most welcome to your Grace. Though His Majesty had a fit yesterday at 11 o'clock which lasted till four, yet it was far more gentle and shorter than that he had on Thursday. Last night he rested very well, and this day (as our letters written at Windsor at five this afternoon assure us) His Majesty hath had no fit at all; he is hearty and well, blessed be God, and his physicians (who have not spared to give him the Jesuits powder) are confident he will have no more returns of his ague. I beseech God to bless His Majesty with long life and health. About two hours ago Mr. Wakefield—your Grace's messenger—arrived here with the two priests in his custody. The four that Atterbury brought hither began their journey yesterday for Ireland again. Fitzgerald and Hethrington are dismissed. David Fitzgerald, who accuses the Lord Brittas is under an engagement to return, but he is not tied to the messenger's company, but is left to himself.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, May 15, Windsor.—In compliance with the promise I made you in my last of sending your Grace what should further occur with relation to the Irish plot, I enclose an order of Council containing the resolution their lordships

have taken, and the proceedings they think fit should be had against the persons concerned in it. And the Committee of Examinations having (in my absence) desired Mr. Secretary Jenkins to charge himself with the transmitting to your Grace the depositions and other evidence of each informant, I shall not for the present enlarge your trouble.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, May 15, London.—The four priests, Murphy, Moyer Calaghan and Henan, brought in their informations in writing the last Council-day, to which they were sworn. At the same time likewise Mr. David Fitzgerald came before the Board and gave a relation to the same effect with that which he gave to your Grace, the particulars chiefly relating to the Lord Brittas and Col. Pierce Lacy; whereupon Mr. Mr. Secretary Jenkins (who was then present) was ordered to remit the aforesaid priests and also Mr. David Fitzgerald together with their informations and some other papers delivered in by the Earl of Essex (which his lordship formerly received from Sir Hans Hamilton and the Bishop of Meath) agreeing in some parts with Moyer's information to your Grace. Mr. Secretary Jenkins was likewise ordered to signify to your Grace that Oliver Plunket, titular Primate, should speedily be brought to his trial, and also a new indictment brought against the Lord Brittas and Col. Pierce Lacy, and that particular care should be taken that no Papist should be on any of their juries. The Lord Chancellor of Ireland's answer to Coppinger's petition was likewise then read, and his lordship is thereupon ordered to bring in his answer within a month peremptorily.

The news from Windsor on Thursday in the afternoon gave great trouble and disturbance to all people, which was that on that morning about eight o'clock His Majesty had a return of his ague, which fit lasted him till three or four o'clock in the afternoon, whereupon the physicians being sent for, at night prescribed a preparation of the Jesuits powder (extracted by one Monsieur Charras, a French apothecary, which hath had great success on several other people). His Majesty slept very well that night, and waking about five o'clock took another dose of the same extraction. On Friday morning early I was commanded by the Council to wait on His Majesty at Windsor, where I found him very well relieved by his Thursday night's rest, and he continued very well all the morning whilst I stayed, which was till eleven o'clock in the morning, but our letters this morning bring an account that about twelve o'clock at noon yesterday another fit took him which was much gentler and of shorter continuance than the former, it not lasting above two hours. His Majesty slept very well last night, and at ten o'clock this morning had no apprehension of any fit. His Majesty left off a waistcoat and shaved his head since he came

to Windsor, which, with walking very early in the mornings and late at nights in that sharp air is believed by all to be the occasion of the return of the ague. Most men who had an ague last fall at the time the King had his, and who were then cured by taking the Jesuits powder, being very apt to have returns this spring upon the least cold or any other accidental irregularity. I hope by the next post to give your Grace the good news of His Majesty's perfect recovery. From Windsor three o'clock this afternoon we hear His Majesty continued very well all day and had missed his fit.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, May 16, Dublin.—With yours of the 8th I received a summary of what was deposed by those the messengers carried hence: the next will I suppose bring us all they can say more at large with some directions to me what to do more, if more be to be done. The titular Primate accused by them is not no more above them in gifts of nature then he ought by his place to be and I doubt hardly so much, his life I confess is much more churchmanlike. This character I believe my Lord of Essex will concur with me in, his lordship having had much more conversation with him than I. I suppose your wife may be now at Knowsley, and I hope the yacht may this evening put to sea to transport her, though yet the wind is out of the way; all the money I could or shall be able till after Christmas to get together has been employed to free me from Sir Robert Vyner's debt, but if by the help of Sir Stephen Fox or any other friend you could take up a 1000 to make the purchase you mention, I will take order that by this time twelvemonth it shall be repaid. I suppose you will know what sort of estate you buy and be satisfied in the title. It will be about that time before I can undertake to pay my Lady Eliz. felton; but to make her present bounty sure to her, if she can get the bond to her hands I will enter into a new to or anybody else she shall name.

I hope the Bills may be ready to be sent over by the end of this month, but if you stay for their return back I doubt it may be longer than you think before we shall see you, for my Lord of Anglesey, my Lord President, and my Lord of Essex may, if they will, make objections to some parts of most of them, and not to disparage your understanding in statutes such as I would not have you take upon you to answer, we shall send over the Bills, and perhaps with them reasons why some of those things liable to exceptions as far as we can foresee them are inserted. But it is the part of the King's Counsel at Law to study them and give their opinion, and it is the King's business, and no otherwise ours than as we are his servants to send or not to send them. My part is only to get them passed if I can after they are returned, and see them

obeyed after they become laws. If you shall be inquisitive enough, you will judge when the Bills are like to be returned and may accordingly and according to [] that place govern your journey ; in the meantime your wife shall be well treated.

ORMOND to JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD.

1680, May 16, Dublin.—Dean Hinde going to Oxford to receive a favour from the University (which I hope I have properly and reasonably recommended) I think it reasonable by him to acknowledge your favour to my family in the care you have been pleased to take of my grandson. I wish his proficiency may be answerable. The bearer is able to give a good account of the state of this place, which is not so dangerous as has been reported in England, not yet so safe as it might be, if those that seem to be zealous for it were in good earnest, and if those that have it in their power would let us secure ourselves.

I have recommended a set of players to the acceptance of the University against the Act, but I think the inconvenience they bring with them so great that I shall be glad of an excuse, provided no other be admitted, which I beseech your lordship to let the Vice-Chancellor know.

COMMISSIONERS OF ARRAY FOR KERRY to ORMOND.

1680, May 17, Lixnaw.—In obedience to your Grace's commands, and pursuant to the instructions annexed to the Commission of Array for this county, we have proceeded in order to arraying these troops and foot companies designed to be arrayed in this county, and do humbly lay before your Grace that this county is not capable of raising more than two troops of horse and two foot companies, nor could that be done but by the supply out of the Lord of Kerry's own stables, which, with others arrayed for his lordship's troop, hath made up a complete troop.

Captain Edward Denny hath also arrayed and mustered a complete troop, Captain Arthur Blennerhassett hath arrayed a complete foot company, and another foot company may be raised in the county, but no arms for the foot are to be had in the county. All which is humbly submitted to your Grace.

TOBIAS CRAMER VIC'. KERRY. FR. BREWSTER.
AR. BLENERHASSETT. H.[?] BLENERHASSETT

J. PYTT to ORMOND.

1680, May 17, Kilfenny, Co. Limerick.—One person, William Burgh, of Newcastle (happening to preach here yesterday) told me that one James Hawksworth, of Balliroe, averred to him that there was a certificate under the late Lord Bishop of Durham his hand found by one Gerard in England

in a black box left sealed up by the said Bishop with the said Gerard, certifying that the said Bishop had married His Majesty Charles Stuart, King of England, to the Duke of Monmouth his mother—which report, together with the author, I thought it my duty to acquaint your Grace with that I may receive your Grace's pleasure and direction how to demean myself towards the publishers of such reports.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 18, London.—Yesterday the titular Primate's servant and a friar that lately went from Prague into Ireland were examined of a committee of the Board, but by reason Mr. Secretary Coventry was absent, and that your letter with other papers were not sent us, the further looking into this matter is deferred until to-morrow. These two persons deny anything which can shew the truth of Murphy or Moyer's depositions, that crew being sent back unto you. I believe the same order will be given unto these, and we shall be rid of a trouble that will come to you. Your letter of the 27th of the last month I received on Sunday last, together with an extract of Sir Henry Capel's letter, both which His Majesty read very attentively, as did also the Duke, and it had all the effect upon them as the subject did deserve, though neither of them does doubt the truth of what you allege, yet I wish you could meet with the original. I will endeavour this post or the next to send you copies of those letters and instructions you desire. I think you need not apprehend any orders for bills from hence; that motion for one to exclude the Popish nobility from their votes in Parliament proceeded from the great zeal of my Lord of Essex, and I believe he will rest satisfied with having been the promoter; that part of your letter dated on May-day the King and Duke are very sensible of, and said that difficulties of that nature you had been accustomed unto. That Mr. Bennett I did mention relating to a match for my son has two daughters; the fortune is so great, though divided between them, as I hear not of so considerable a one in the kingdom. I shall so govern myself in the matter, as I hope you will not disapprove what I shall do. The King, God be thanked, last night continued in good health. If the yacht be at Liverpool my wife will soon wait on you. Major Billingsley, whose licence expires about the 25th of the next month, hopes you will not take it amiss if he stays to accompany me over. I hope the bills may be despatched, and I ready to go about that time.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, May 18, Windsor.—I have received your Grace's of May the 10th, and shall take care of all things you please to commit to me. Mr. Secretary Coventry has not delivered to me any of his papers, not having had time to sort them,

but he has promised me all that are important to His Majesty's service. What was resolved in Council about Hethrington's information has been already sent to your Grace, and I did order that anything of that kind which might be done at any of the Committees of Council whilst I am attending the King here should likewise be constantly written to you. The condition of His Majesty's health I am sure my Lord Ossory has always informed you of, but he being now at London, I will let you know that he is perfectly recovered of his late indisposition and there is no fears of any return of it.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, May 18, at 8 at night, Whitehall.—It is an effect of your infinite innate nobleness to descend (as you are pleased to do in your letter of the 10th current) to express a satisfaction in that I have the honour to succeed Mr. Secretary Coventry. I must confess (and 'tis no humility in me to do it) that I cannot but come behind my most worthy predecessor very much in all the capacities that this place requires. But if there be anything in this world in which I may be suffered to say that I know not how to yield to him, it is in that unfeigned devotion I have for your Grace; as the most glorious confessor (in that most righteous cause) of all the King's subjects, the Royal family only excepted. In truth, my Lord, had you left it to myself to choose my own argument and assurance of some degree of your Grace's favour and confidence, I should have chosen above all things that which you are pleased to intend for me; I mean a duplicate of such despatches as your Grace can imagine I may be in any wise serviceable in. I shall make the best use I can possibly of this special great honour and favour, and though it were not indulged me, yet my obligation is nevertheless to watch carefully wherever your Grace's service, which is always the same with that of His Majesty, is concerned.

I come now (just at seven at night) from Windsor, where I had the honour to see His Majesty without any other symptom of an aguish distemper but that of his lips broken out. He was at prayers in the public oratory. I was at his feet for half an hour together upon business; I saw him dine with the Queen publicly, and which is a good indication of that which his dutiful subjects looked and prayed for, I saw His Majesty eat a very hearty meal.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, May 18, London.—This brings with it the happy news of His Majesty's complete recovery (as we hope), having had no fit since that on Friday last, which I gave your Grace an account of by the last post; amongst other symptoms which induce the physicians to believe there is not likely to be any return, one is that the King's lips are broken out as

they did when his ague left him in the autumn. The Council is adjourned till Wednesday, the 26th of this month.

This morning about two or three o'clock began a most violent storm of thunder and rain, which continued till about ten o'clock, and ended with a shower of hail of an extraordinary kind—some of the hailstones being of the bigness of a pullet's egg.

SIR WILLIAM KING to HENRY GASCOIGNE.

1680, May 21, Limerick.—In obedience to his Grace's commands to me of the 10th instant's date, I sent out from hence two parties of foot (under the command of two commissioned officers) to the several places mentioned in his Grace's list to make search for the titular Bishop of Killaloe; and they returned hither the last night, but could neither find him nor hear of his being at any of the places; nor at several other places where they made search for him. I will lay out all I can to find him, and there is no way to effect it but by setting of him, and that cannot be done without money, which shall not be wanting. The inclosed letter from the titular Bishop of Limerick I this day received. I desire you will acquaint his Grace with its import, and that he will vouchsafe to signify his pleasure to me therein.

I desire you will also acquaint his Grace that two companies of foot (viz., the Lord Granard's and Sir Richard Aldworth's) and the troop of horse garrisoned here were by his Grace's orders lately removed hence, and that by this post there are orders come for Captain Hamilton's company to remove to Londonderry: the Lieutenant (who is the chief officer present) came this day to me, and told me he had not money either to pay their quarters here, or to march his men so far, so that unless a supply be sent him he knows not what to do but stay till the next assignment comes, if his Grace shall nor order the contrary. By the removal of these three companies and the troop I know not how I shall be able to perform the duty of this garrison with those that remain unless his Grace be pleased to send me some in their steads, having so many posts and guards to maintain, and our men on third night duty. I also desire you will from me humbly represent to his Grace that since our late distracted times I thought it my duty to take care that every night all our musquets on our guards should be loaden; by which the consumption of powder must necessarily be more than heretofore it has been, and yet the half-yearly allowance for watch ammunition is less by half than heretofore it has been; so as we are very much straitened; neither have we had any allowance of ball these three years; and some companies lately come hither have not one bullet. To these particulars I beg the favour of a line from you.

Postscript. The titular Bishop of Limerick has, pursuant to his Grace's order, entered security to me to be forthcoming at his Grace's pleasure.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 21.—This morning the committee examined the friar and the servant of the titular Primate; I suppose they will, when the Council meets, be sent back into Ireland; we are not at all edified by anything they say. I cannot find any copy of an order of Fitzgerald's being employed into Munster; from the messenger that carries with him the four priests you may learn the proceeding of that affair, it being the same person that was then employed; the King jestingly said that it was my Lord of Essex's and his plot. I think it is not necessary any further inquiry; however, I will see if any thing material can be gathered upon what was done in it. I wish you could be truly informed whether the wall, wherein that important writing was said to be hid was lately or of a long time laid down. My Lord of Essex said my Lord Shannon spoke doubtfully in the point. The affair of my Lord Ranelagh's accounts and the bills from Ireland are things that raise great expectation among us. The King is well; if at Windsor, where I am now going, I hear anything new, I shall write another letter.

FRANCIS BENSON to ORMOND.

1680, May 22, Whitehall.—My Lord Sunderland having commanded me to send directly to you the enclosed examinations, I am obliged to give your Grace that trouble, which I have used to do to Mr. Ellis, since his lordship was pleased to appoint me particularly to solicit the business of Ireland.

On Wednesday last the Duke came hither, principally about farming the Post Office in Ireland, and having dined at my Lord St. Albans' returned to Windsor in the evening.

Yesterday Philip Le Mar and his mother received their trial at the King's Bench bar, and were both found guilty of being suborned to swear sodomy against the Duke of Buckingham. In the course of the trial some reflections were made upon His Royal Highness, but very severe and frequent ones against the Earl and Countess of Danby; but especially upon the latter, against whom one witness deposed that Le Mar told him the Countess of Danby offered him at her house in the Cockpit 300*l.* if he would give evidence against the Duke of Buckingham upon such a crime.

The same day my Lord Stafford brought his writ of *habeas corpus* and moved by his counsel to be bailed; being likely, as he represented, to be otherwise imprisoned *sine die*. The Court ordered he should be sent back to the Tower, and my Lord Chief Justice told him the only remedy in his case was to petition the King for the speedy meeting of the Parliament.

His Majesty finds himself so well recovered from his ague that he purposes to be here on Wednesday next, when the matter of the examinations of Kennah and MacDonald is to

be reported to him. And in regard their ignorance is believed to be rather affected than real, it is supposed they will confess something more material concerning a Plot than hitherto they have done.

It is said that the marriage between my Lord Mordaunt and Mrs. Frazer will now be speedily consummated, the lady being discovered to be with child, and my lord seeming to own something of a contract.

Our letters from Flanders give us an account of some great alterations that have lately happened in the Imperial Court, that Count Montecocoli is banished, and that his places of General and Governor of Raab in Hungary are given to the Prince of Baden; that General Captoeres is under a criminal process; that the High Chancellor Hocher is accused of high treason; that the son of the Count Serini (who was beheaded in the year 1671) is imprisoned for treason for holding intelligence with the Bohemian rebels, and that the French King has distributed monies to the Chief Barons of the kingdom. The several disgraces of these great men are attributed to the Italians, whose faction and power in the Emperor's Court is very strong.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, May 23.—I have little to say to yours of the 15th till we know when we are like to meet, for though I have not much esteem of your abilities in the comprehending of all the intricacies of bills, about which the most learned in the art seldom agree either in composing or interpreting them, yet there may be so many other good uses of your being at Court that I desire you would not quit it till you and I are agreed of the time. The yacht I presume is by this time ashore somewhere, and the Captain gone to advise with your wife about her embarkation, so that by the next favourable wind we look for her. The four Irish witnesses landed here last night, and I shall as fast as I can put that affair into the proper way of prosecution, and be as careful as I can that no advantage shall be given on that account against me. We have a probable project of setting up a little fleet here of ten sail in all, but must have His Majesty's own direction how to proportion them, the biggest being a five rate; of this you shall shortly hear more at large.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 25th, London.—This morning I received your letter of the 16th of this month. You will be informed before this what has passed concerning the titular Primate's servant and the friar that accompanied him. I believe to-morrow's Council will order their return; if the yacht has got to Liverpool, as I may conclude by the orders you gave, I hope my wife may have the happiness of waiting on you before now. As she always owns with much gratitude your kindness,

so I am sure she has for you all the duty and affection imaginable. When I have seen the acting of some when the bills are come over, I will accordingly take measure for my journey, towards which neither impatience or desires are wanting on my part. I shall speak to Sir Stephen Fox concerning the purchase, and will be careful if it prove a good one to see the title made clear. I shall also acquaint my Lady Elizabeth Felton with what you propose in her favour. Mr. Hyde in confidence the other day told me that the King and Duke wished Mr. Russell's regiment in my hands, and proposed my purchasing of it. I replied that I would ever be ready to lay down all I had and to venture my life for the service of the Crown, but that in this particular I desired to be excused, thinking it was not decent for one of my quality that had served to get by money a military employment, were I rich enough to do it. He has undertaken that my declining this matter shall not be ill resented. As I would not refuse the command if freely offered, so for some reasons of my own I do not eagerly desire it. I send you the enclosed, by which you will see in what condition my affairs are in Holland.

ORMOND TO EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, May 25, Dublin.—I have resisted several importunities to recommend persons fit enough to be Privy Councillors here—the number being in my opinion already greater than is needful or well consisting with the respect that ought to be incident to the dignity and would be paid to it if fewer had it. But now I must offer one to His Majesty for that favour—one Mr. John Eyre, a gentleman of a good family and fortune, and that with it has acquired considerable interest in the country he lives in and may be of great use to the King's service on all occasions, especially in a House of Commons. This recommendation is without any solicitation on his part, and only thought of by me as an expedient to overbalance some, who in the same country I suspect may trouble both country and Parliament affairs. The draught of a letter to that purpose goes herewith, which I desire your lordship will be pleased to offer His Majesty.

THO. HAMILTON TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, May the 25th.—Aboard the *Charles* galley in Tangier Road.—I believe your lordship will have heard of the condition that Tangier was in afore this comes to your hands, but this gentleman who comes latelier from thence can inform you better than anybody you can have met withal, he being sent expressly from my Lord of Inchiquin to the King, and is a very understanding gentleman, his name being Fitzgerald. I do not question but that my Lord of Inchiquin has met with enemies who have not been sparing to write against him, but in my opinion he has behaved himself with

a great deal of discretion and conduct in the whole business. The bearer hereof will give your Lordship the whole particular of what has been transacted, so that I will trouble you no further.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, May 25, Dublin.—In one of your late letters you tell me of your diligent attendance at the Privy Council; to make that diligence the more useful I would recommend to you that before the affairs of the day are out of your memory you will set down in writing such short heads of what has been agitated or concluded as being sometimes considered will enable you to inform me and be a great help to yourself. I have by this post recommended Mr. Eyre, of Eyrecourt, in Connaught, to be sworn of the Council, and sent the draught of a letter to my Lord Sunderland for that purpose, which if the King agree to it, I desire you to cause Mulys to solicit and pay for and put it on my account and send it away. My sense is purely to secure a considerable man to the King's service and to set him up against a faction that may be troublesome. I have [recommended the removal of] Sir H. Ingoldsby from the Council which would be a useful demonstration of His Majesty's dissatisfaction with him by reason of his factious carriage in England, and traducing of the Government here, and I think there need no reason be given for it.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, May 26, Enfield Chase.—Since I wrote last to you I have received several from your Grace, which I immediately transmitted to the Secretary of Council. My gout as if reproaching me the little use I have of a right hand hath not yet set me free, but by frequent returns visits my wrist, and so at once spareth my hands and excuseth me.

This day I received a letter from your Grace of the 7th of May by Mr. Muschamp. I should be very glad to serve him or my Lord Primate in any thing I can, but like deer when they have first cast their horns keep the woods for some time, I have not seen London or Windsor since my first leaving the town, but am busied in settling my small management here, where, if God sendeth quiet, I intend to spend most of my time. If your Grace continue any thoughts about a house, here is one nigh me that was formerly Judge Barclay's house—capacious enough, I think, for your Grace's family. I am told it hath 50 or 60 chambers in it. It hath garden and bowling green, but neither in good order; it hath several fishponds, and as much meadow and pasture as letteth for 40*l.* a year. It is well in repair as to the outside, but in the inside it will require some amendment, especially the outhouses. It is now in possession of a schoolmaster who is removing to Barnet; he hath a lease

for 20 years, and the rent he payeth is 50*l.* a year, but he pretendeth to have been at expense in meliorating the land, and upon that score demandeth a 100*l.* for his lease, but possibly he may fall of that price. If your Grace have yet any such thoughts you may give order to my Lord of Ossory to see it as for himself; the rent being so low, it may very well look as but a reasonable convenience for him, and I will at any time go over with him and view it, but I desire an answer from your Grace speedily, because the present possessor is poor, the place nigh London, and probably may take the first chapman. I should be sorry to see you desire a remove, but if that should be, I should be much comforted to find you in our neighbourhood, where I will assure your Grace I am very far from repenting my retreat. I hope before this comes to your hands my Lady Ossory will be safe landed with her knight errant, Sir Nicholas. For news I can only tell you I am providing for my campagne hunting season now approaching, and if our neighbour of France will let me alone I will him. My most humble duty and service to my Lady Duchess.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, May 26.—I have received yours of the 18th of this month. All I have to say in return is that I have also received news of Murphy, Moyer and the rest of that knot by [] all the papers that belong to them into the Chief Justice's care and management. The man that wrote the letter from Worcester, wherein the contents of Sir Henry Capel's letter to Russell were, is now here himself, where he is satisfied we are not in the disquiet Sir Henry apprehended, but he undertakes not to get the original, doubting that Russell if he has kept it will not part with it, other things being contained in it. The match you mention for your son I suppose would accommodate our domestic affairs, but it ought to do it considerably, and it should be compassed without great difficulty, else it will hardly counterbalance some alloys that are in the matter. The yacht set sail hence on the 20th of this month, and since she is not driven in again I presume she may be ready with this wind to bring your wife.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, May 29, Windsor.—Since the orders were sent to your Grace concerning the men which His Majesty thought fit to go to Tanger out of Ireland, he has considered it will be most for his service that they should be all of the Scotch Regiment, which is the occasion of my sending you the enclosed directions.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, May 29, London.—The Council not sitting the last week occasioned my not giving your Grace the trouble of

any letter from me till this post. The answer of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to Coppinger's former petition was brought in the last Council day, but hath not as yet been read, the Board being then employed in considering the ways of sending present recruits to Tangier. Six hundred foot were ordered to be sent out of Ireland, and an express to that purpose sent to your Grace, by which I presume your Grace before this time hath notice of the particulars. Six hundred foot more were ordered to be drawn out of the four standing regiments here, viz., 240 with two captains, 2 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, &c., out of Col. Russell's regiment, 120 men with one captain, &c., out of the Lord Craven's, 120 men with one captain, &c., out of His Royal Highness's regiment, 120 men with one captain, &c., out of Lord Musgrave's regiment. 60 horse to be drawn out of the troop of Guards with a commander to be appointed by His Majesty. 60 horse to be drawn out of the Earl of Oxford's regiment, with one captain, &c., which aforesaid forces are to march immediately to Portsmouth, there to be shipped for the voyage.

The last letters from Tangier of 24th April from Sir Palmes Fairbone give an account that the enemy had fortified themselves so well in their trenches that there would be need of a very considerable force to remove them; that they had intercepted Henrietta Fort and Charles Fort from communication with the town and made several very brisk attempts upon the said forts, but that they gave them an account from the forts by speaking trumpets that they were in a very good condition and wanted nothing, that their only way of conveying intelligence to the forts was by the speaking trumpets, and that they always of late spoke Irish, having received notice that some English renegadoes amongst the Moors understood them in the other language. This is the latest account from thence, and the Lord Inohiquin is preparing to come hither according to his orders sent him by Sir Palmes Fairbone.

His Majesty after this at the Council table took occasion to mention a pamphlet lately printed by stealth called—"A Letter to a Person of Honour concerning the Black Box," which being full of sedition and malice against the Duke of York, and endeavouring to persuade the people that the Duke of Monmouth was legitimate, His Majesty ordered the Clerks of the Council to make copies of His Majesty's declaration entered in the Council books concerning His Majesty's marriage, which they are to attest upon oath, and with an account of the late examinations to have printed for the satisfaction of the minds of the people. That night after the Council the King returned to Windsor. Here are some alterations in the military employments going on: Mr. Churchill is to command the Duke's regiment of foot and the fort at Sheerness in the room of Sir Charles Littleton, who is to be Governor of Jersey; Sir John Lanier is to be lieutenant of the Duke's troop of

Horse Guards in the room of Sir Richard Dutton, who is to go Governor of Barbadoes, and Sir Jonathan Atkins is to be recalled home.

Mr. David Fitzgerald and two other persons brought out of Ireland by the messenger Wakefield are ordered to return forthwith into Ireland, there to give evidence of what they can inform.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, May 29. London.—I think last Council day an express was ordered to give you notice of another recruit out of Ireland for the relief of Tangiers. I beg your pardon in minding you how greatly you may suffer if the men be not ready at the arrival of the ships. I mentioned in a former letter either to you or my brother what notice was taken that the second four companies had they been ready might have gone by the first opportunity, and this was said on Wednesday last, and not having had an answer to that enquiry I could not make any reply. This is all the trouble I shall give you now, which I hope you will pardon.

PRINCE OF ORANGE to EARL OF OSSORY.*

1680, May 29, La Haye.—If faut que vous me croies le plus faus de tous les hommes apres les asseurances que je vous ay donne que vostre affaire seroit terminée bientost qu'elle ne l'est pas encore, mais si vous esties sur les lieux vous voiries que ce n'est pas ma faute. J'ay cru ne la devoir pas propose en un temps ou nous sommes a l'Assemblee d'Hollande en de tres fortes disputes comment de lever de l'argent pour payer nos debtes faites pendant la geurre cette dispute a dure trois mois, j'espere pourtant qu'elle se terminera cette semaine et qu' apres oela vostre affaire s'achevera. Je vous prie destre bien assure du deplaisir que J'ay de ce retardement et du chagrin qui me cause un affaire de cette nature ; J'espere qu'elle sera si tost finie que nous pouroiez avoir la satisfaction de vous voir en ce lieu avant vostre voyage d'Irlande affin de vous pouvoir assurer de bouche de la veritable passion avec lequel je suis absolument avou. Vous aimant autant que je fais l'on ne sauroit avoir eu plus de joye que j'eu d'apprendre que vous esties refait du Cousiel. Je n'ay pas le temps de vous informe d'un affaire qui est arrive au Regt. de Weesly qui fait grand bruit. Je vous en faires envoyer les informations par l'ordinaire prochain.

THOMAS FAIRFAX to [EARL OF ARRAN.]

1680, June 1, London.—I am infinitely ashamed that your lordship should find me here considering the date of my letter, but since I am sure it's none of my fault I

* The orthography of the original is followed in this transcript

hope my Lord Duke and your lordship will please to pardon it. If you did but know what delays and vexations I have had to bring about my business, your lordship, I am sure, would pity me, but now God be thanked it's over, and on Friday I intend to set forward towards Ireland, but it must be by the way of Yorkshire, where I must stay a week with my old mother, so that I believe it will be the latter end of the month before I can reach Dublin. I went yesterday to the Lodge to take leave of the Good Secretary (as we call him yet), where I had the most to do to get away in the world. He is mightily pleased with his retirement and talks of living at the Chase all winter, which we say will be something tedious for him to want company to chat at nights, but he seems to be resolute bat. My Lord Mulgrave goes the chief command to Tangier; my Lord Plymouth, Lumley, Mordaunt and several other volunteers go with him; Lord Ossory and Duke of Albemarle proffered their service in that affair, but the King thought fit to deny them both. Pray, my Lord, be pleased to make my excuse to his Grace for my long stay since he took my oath; it's not out of any in inclination of my own, but the dilatory proceedings of our English Court. I hope to repair all by my future diligence, since no man takes more delight to be in the service of your lordship's family. Pray, my Lord, tell my Lord Chief Justice Keating the Secretary began his health

JAMES BUCK to SAME.

1680, June 5th, Chelsey.—Your letter of the 22nd of May came not to my hands till the 2nd instant, which gave me notice of my Lady Arran's coming into England, which is no more than I expected, it being here as I am told long since contrived. I assure your lordship I shall be as assisting and serviceable to her ladyship as lies in my power or her ladyship's pleasure to command. The six coach horses shall be ready at Chester to attend her ladyship the 13th or 14th instant, according to your lordship's desire. I have tried the coachman here, that Mr. Clark always made use of for my Lord Duke, when he hired horses for Chester, and their price is still what Mr. Clark gave, which is 35s. per day whilst they are out, so that there needs not be any long stay. The charges will be so great, I have not yet made the bargain; I hope to bring it easier, but Monday will be my last day to try others. My Lord, I know not how my Lady comes over furnished, but your lordship will consider my disbursements; this last half-year's rent, which is more than I have received by 100*l*. I have redeemed the pendants, and it's as far as Chester in the way, but I have sent for them back. Mad. Ferrers sometimes tells me all the children come over to her, and sometimes that none but my Lady Betty; and she is much troubled she has not particular order in the whole affair. I hope my son has by this time kissed your lordship's hands.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, June 5, Windsor.—My indisposition in my eyes still continuing, though somewhat abated, hinders me as yet from being able to write. The last Council day His Majesty commanded all those that were present at Council when he swore to the truth of a paper signed with his own hand, declaring that he was never either contracted or married to any but his present Queen, that they should some day the next term depose in Chancery that they were present when this thing passed; after which this transaction will be made public with threatenings to any that shall go about to spread false rumours in this particular. I hope I shall soon send you copies of Fitzgerald's instructions which were passed in an extraordinary manner, and not by the Board. My Lord Primate's answer to Coppinger's petition was read last Council day, unto which Coppinger is ordered to reply. The answer might have been better penned, for besides the length, my Lord Primate's enemies observed too much sharpness, and some jestingly said that he was mistaken when he made any difference between ethics and morals. I will serve him in all things to the best of my power. I shall say nothing of your project for shipping, but humbly offer my advice that the number may be rather less, and the proportions larger, for a fifth rate will have enough to do with one Algerine. Anything under this will in my opinion be useless. I wish rather that some might be fourth rates. I shall not fail to impart your letter of the 30th May, which I now received unto Mr. Hyde, and shall speak to the King for his commands concerning Sir Hen. Ingoldsby's dismissal from Council. I hear the States General have ordered my commission of General, but I cannot learn what they have done as to my appointments, in which, if I find not satisfaction to some reasonable degree, I shall soon return it unto them again. Several of your friends are of opinion that, upon the occasion of these forces going from Ireland to Tangier, it would be reasonable for you to move His Majesty for some declaration of his mind to you that this expense was to be but temporary and that the supplies his people in Parliament shall give him should be laid out for the security and good of that kingdom. Sir Wm. Petty has desired me to get him to be made a Councillor. He professes great respects to you, but without your permission I shall not move in this matter.

I know nothing of any pardon for Col. Gorges till you wrote me word of it. I am very much a servant to Col. Cecil, but knew nothing of any concern of his. Major Billingsley is now with me, who will wait on you about the beginning of the next month.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, June 5.—I have yours of the 25th and others of the 27th from the Council, by which I am ordered to send 600

men more to Tangier. I conclude from thence that the place is in no small danger, else it would be unconsidered how displeasing it will be to a Parliament here to have men paid by this revenue employed upon another service, but necessity must be obeyed and I will make the best I can of all I am commanded. God send they come not too late to preserve us from the damage and shame of such a loss. I am extremely unsatisfied with the management of James his expenses, the account for a year coming to 1,100*l.* in a place where the half ought to have served. I thought you would have taken the pains to have inquired into it; the account for gowns and clothes is most extravagant. I wish you would call for an account—particularly of the number of suits, the kind and rates they cost and by whose direction so many were sent. My luck always has been that all that serve me, as well as others, think my wealth is not to be exhausted, and that I am fit to be a dupe to all sorts of people; the post is just going. No news of your wife.

PRINCE RUPERT TO ORMOND.

1680, June 7th.—The bearer hereof—Major Billingsley, my godson—is returning for Ireland. I could not but trouble your lordship with two or three lines in his behalf to give your lordship thanks for your kindnesses already showed unto him. And also that your lordship will continue the same for the future in any thing that may intervene, according to his desert and better preferment as occasion shall offer.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, June 9, Dublin.—I have yours of the 29th of May, and before that received orders to send hence a further recruit to Tangier, which shall be prepared as fast as the thing can be done, and if that cannot be by the time the ships shall come for them, it will be unjust to lay the fault upon me, considering that there never is sixpence in the Treasury to advance upon such occasions; how averse men are from going to that service (in so much that half companies run away at once when they are on their march) that they would all do so or mutiny if they were sent without some pay, and that neither in case of mutiny or running away there is any power to hang criminals, which only can terrify them, for all inferior punishments they had rather undergo than that service. I send you herewith extracts of all the letters I sent from the first time that I was ordered to send men for Tangier, out of which if the dates be compared with the times that they were ready for transportation it will appear there was no time lost that could be saved by me, and that the four English companies have taken above two months for ships to carry them; where that fault lies I know not, nor why it should not be inquired after and reflected on. If the Secretary did not read my several letters on this subject,

or if it be forgotten that he did read them to the Council, I cannot help it, and perhaps you are not free from blame if you have forgotten what your brother and I have written to you on the subject; you may read this letter where and to whom you please or make use of any part of it as you shall think fit. The wind has been fair two or three days, and has brought in many vessels, but there is no news of your wife.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, June 12, Whitehall.—His Majesty hath altered nothing in the measures he hath taken for the succouring of Tangier upon the loss of the forts that are near it. The horse and foot are hastened away all that is possible here; the same, I doubt not, is done in Ireland. 'Tis hoped they may come time enough to save the town, though the Moors will in all probability have already carried the little forts and redoubts that were remaining (when the express came away) after the loss of the Charles and the Henrietta forts. The Alcade offered a peace if we demolish all the forts and be content to hold the town as the Portuguese held it. On Thursday night last there was a defensive alliance signed between His Majesty and the King of Spain; it is the same in effect with that which was made between Spain and Holland in '73, and between His Majesty and Holland in '78; 'tis purely defensive and induces no obligation but that the two Kings maintain and defend each other in their present peace and possessions against all aggressors.

THOMAS PRICE, ARCHBISHOP OF CASHEL to ORMOND.

1680, June 13, Cashel.—In obedience to your Grace's commands of the 11th of the last month, I caused all diligent search to be made for the body of Edward Ball, and that by those that I know just to me and faithful to His Majesty's interest, but as yet he is not to be found. If he lurks hereabouts ever so closely I hope ere long to find him out, but what I have done hitherto has been private, and if your Grace thinks it more convenient to make now a more public search, upon the least intimation it shall be strictly and readily observed and obeyed; in the interim I shall not slacken the duty required from me.

Since I have taken the confidence to give your Grace this trouble, I shall also beg leave to return your Grace my hearty thanks for your great care of the inhabitants of that Union whereof you have been pleased to condescend Dr. Sall should be the minister. He preached in the forenoon at St. John's to the English, and in the afternoon at the Rock in Irish, to both with great satisfaction, but to the latter so far to their contentment that he had at the least 100 of Papists to hear him of almost all sorts as well as literate as otherwise, and if the Church could have held them, it is reported there would be as many more. I hope it will work upon them by degrees,

and if we can win but some our labour is not lost. I pray God reward your Grace for contributing so much to so good a work by your encouraging of it, which I hope will tend to God's glory, as it is altogether intended. The Dr. intends to live with me for his better security, which I think really necessary, his living consisting almost of mere Irish, and no house yet built to live in. I intend to join with him to get therefore one to serve that cure that can read and preach in Irish. I thought fit to acquaint your Grace with it and hope it will meet with your approbation.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, June 15, London.—My being a fortnight out of town hath occasioned my not paying that tribute to your Grace which I hold myself (in duty) obliged to do, though His Majesty's declaration concerning his marriage and the affairs of Tangier have taken up most part of the debates in Council during that time.

I find my Lord Chancellor of Ireland's answer to Copinger's petition was read the last Council day, and an order made that it should be shewed the petitioner, which will regularly produce a hearing before the Board (as I imagine).

The Treaty between us and Spain was concluded the latter end of the last week at Windsor, in which there is said to be a condition that the Parliament shall sit in a short time, which is thought to be the beginning of October, and it is supposed His Majesty will at next meeting of the Parliament, which is to be in July, signify his pleasure that he intends they shall sit at the said time of October.

Mr. Slingsby's patent as Master of the Mint is ordered to be superseded, and that office is to be put into commission. And it is said the Master of the Ordnance place (which is at present in commission) is to be given to Col. George Legge, and the Lieutenant's of the Ordnance place to Sir Christopher Musgrave, one of the present Commissioners.

This day all the Lords of the Council who were witnesses to His Majesty's former declarations concerning his marriage took their oaths in the Court of Chancery in order to have the said declarations (so attested) recorded in the said Court.

His Majesty is so well pleased with the good air of Windsor that he intends not to be here to-morrow at the Council.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, June 15, London.—I received this day your letters of the 5th and 9th of this month. The first relating to the ill management of my son's expenses, I have already ordered Mulys to require from M. Drelincourt an account of the particulars of them. I am extremely scandalised at the extravagance of them and shall show my dislike and require better management for the future, as they shall value your displeasure. I am sure a much less sum would keep him

decently in an Academy, which I think a more proper place for him. As to the transcripts of parts of your letters to my Lord Sunderland and Secretary Coventry, I beg your pardon if I did ill express my meaning, my brother's nor your letter not answering the thing I thought I had mentioned, which was, that I heard it alleged that orders came to you for the second recruit time enough for them to have gone away with the first, which consisted of the four Scotch companies, and there was conveniency in those ships for their transportation, had the men been at the waterside, as, it is said, was ordered from hence. If you will be pleased to look upon your first and second orders, I doubt not but you will furnish me with a satisfactory answer in this particular. Dr. Turberville being in town, I remain here for the cure of my eyes, which are in an ill condition by my returning to Windsor before they were perfectly well, that place by reason of the chalkiness and dust of the building being very hurtful to all that are liable to any such distemper. I have been let blood, physicked, bathed, scarified, and blistered, and still the sharpness of the humour continues.

ORMOND TO EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, June 16, Dublin.—I have yours of the 5th and some copies of the transaction concerning Fitzgerald—the rest I hope to have by the next, but by these I find the proceeding was extraordinary and malicious, the ill manners ere excusable as faults of ignorance.

We have the King's declaration as to the Duke of Monmouth's mother in print; it shall be reprinted here. My Lord Primate shall know your care of him. The King may mend the proportions of the ships any way he pleases, so he give no umbrage that he means after they are built to call them away to other service than that of this kingdom, of which they are so suspicious that though moved to it they would not agree to have any 4th rate. We conceive there will be great use of two yachts and other small craft, and I suppose His Majesty may save in England full as much as we shall lay out here, since the stations of the Land's End, Cape Clear, and the chops of the Channel may be supplied by them, besides jobs to Tangier, and even to the Leeward Islands may upon occasion be performed by them.

I send you herewith some notions of Sir Wm. Petty's upon the subject, but I omit his computations of charge because they are too much mistaken, and that we can have them more certainly elsewhere. I have no objection to Sir Wm. Petty's being a Privy Councillor, but that he will make so many objections and propose so many notions that much of our time will be lost in them; besides, till a dispute betwixt him and the Farmers is over it will be highly inconvenient to have him there. In the Bills now transmitted His Majesty will find himself sufficiently bound to employ the revenue

of this kingdom—new and old—to the service of it, and yet he may dispose of money after it comes into the Exchequer to what use he pleases, but he can give no new grants or pensions. This, I am sure, is a great security to the Crown and kingdom, and no small ease to the King in freeing him from perpetual importunities. If the King finds the proportion of the ships too small, why may we not call a ship of betwixt 40 and 50 guns a 5th rate, for as I remember neither tons or guns were specified in the Bill.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1680, June 16.—I received the last night the honour of your letter bearing date the fourth of this month, whereby I perceive that your Excellency has not yet had notice of the present Vice-Chancellor's entire resignation of himself to your disposal for the succeeding year—a thing which will be very much for the security of our concerns in this place, and also to the service of the King, especially if at the close of this year he should have occasion to call a Parliament here again. I sent your Excellency also an account of the performance of your commands at Magdalen Hall, and the settlement of Dr. Levett in the Principalship, and likewise represented the difficulties which we now have in executing your Excellency's commission by reason of the death of some and absence of others who were nominated therein; for remedy whereof I humbly offered it to your Excellency that you would be pleased to supply the vacancies. This letter I doubt has miscarried, being enclosed in one to Mr. Moreton, who I hear is coming for England. Since my Lord of Ossory will not close with the conversation of books, it remains that he have the advantage of conversing with men. In reference to which I heartily wish your Excellency may find a fit person to serve my Lord in the quality of a Governor, who, besides the real endowments of knowledge and virtue, may have the advantages of conduct and address to make himself beloved and revered. There is not, I think, generally speaking, a worse sort of men than they who set up and make it their trade to be governors to young noblemen; so that if the person who is recommended to your Excellency be one of that profession, I hope you will have a very particular assurance before he be entertained. The settling my lord in principles of honour and industry, and prepossessing him with true notions of things being not the work of base and mercenary minds, it will be very hard to find upon that level any one competently fit for such an undertaking.

As to my Lord Courcy, though I cannot boast any great acquisitions in learning, I may assure your Excellency that he has lived here with sobriety and innocence. What his temper and inclinations are Sir Robert Southwell is very well enabled to inform your Excellency; it is, I fear, not so active as were requisite to the building up the decays of a

family. The sea is, I perceive, an element which he utterly declines, and therefore he implores your patronage at land. The Court I doubt would not be a very safe, though suitable station to him. Possibly if his quality would prefer him in marriage, it may be the best disposal. But this must be referred to your Excellency's judgment. Beseeching Almighty God to continue His blessing to your person, your counsels and affairs, I take leave with all possible duty and respect.

LADY CAVENDISH to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1680, June 18th, Chatsworth.—I am but just now come out of the coach from a very tiresome journey, but hearing the post was just going from hence, I was not willing to omit letting your ladyship know I have brought James and Betty hither very well, though the ways cannot be worse in winter than they are now, which made the journey very troublesome, but James is so good a traveller he is not at all the worse for it. I have but just seen Will and Harry, so I can say little of them. I received when I came hither a letter from your ladyship, in which I find you expected my sister Ossory, but Maisson has one of a later date says she is landed, which I am very glad of.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1680, June 22.—I am exceedingly glad that my Lord James's being here proves to your Excellency's satisfaction, which I hope will always continue during his abode, and that his improvements will be such as will continue with him in all future removes. Mr. Dean of Limerick, has not yet thought fit to make use of your Excellency's favour in reference to his degree, there being a Statute of his College that six weeks must pass after he has his grace from the private society before he can be a candidate for the degree in the University. As to the other affair of comedians, the King's players having had cold reception from Mr. Vice-Chancellor in their desires to be received here this Act, obtained a solemn recommendation from His Majesty, and that not taking the desired effect they have procured a second letter. What the event will be I know not; but I think if the Vice-Chancellor be forced to receive them, he will so shorten them in time as may discourage them from coming on such terms.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, June 23.—I have caused all that could readily be found relating to the recruit commanded hence to Tangier to be extracted, and you have them in a paper enclosed herewith which you may upon occasion shew the King and the Duke and also produce at Council, but it will be hard to be put to such searches and retrospects upon

every suggestion that may be made in discourse when there is nobody to answer and when the reflection is made to serve a present turn and yet remains as an aspersion to the prejudice of another. I saw it in a letter from one that said he stood by when somebody belonging to the Admiralty had the impudence to tell the Duke that the ships had stayed I know not how long for the men at Kinsale, when on the contrary the men stayed for the ships six weeks at least, I am sure till with trouble I was fain to make up what they had spent in that time, but to this hour no ship has stayed a minute for the men. I am sorry your eyes are so bad. You must not think of a penny till they are better.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, June 26th, London.—The last Council day the Lord Sunderland brought in the Bills sent by your Grace out of Ireland with your Grace's letters, one of which relating to the Farmers of Ireland making a proposal for a new farm of the Revenue was particularly ordered to be laid by carefully till it should be taken into consideration, the Commissioners of the Treasury then present at the Board giving an account that they had not heard of any such proposal made or like to be made by the Farmers.

The Bills of the Revenue and of settlement were ordered to be copied with all speed, and as soon as they are done the Committee intends to take them into their consideration, as likewise all the other Bills remitted by your Grace hither. For the relief of Tangier four thousand foot and six hundred horse are ordered to make the number of the garrison and the Earl of Ossory to be Governor.

On the 24th inst. a common hall being met in the City of London, Mr. Slingsby Bethel and Mr. Cornish, two persons represented to be men of factious principles, were chosen sheriffs for the year ensuing; at the same time was likewise a petition for the sitting of the Parliament delivered to the sheriffs of London to be presented to the King, which is not as yet delivered.

This morning the Grand Jury of Middlesex brought a petition into the Court of King's Bench for the sitting of the Parliament, which they would have delivered the Judges to have presented to His Majesty but the Court refused to receive it, intimation being given to the Judges that the Grand Jury were likewise preparing a Bill of Indictment against His Royal Highness, in which they would have indicted him for being a Papist. The Judges discharged the said Grand Jury from their further attendance, to the great disappointment of many who attended in Westminster Hall, with the Earl of Shaftesbury at their head. Another Grand Jury is intended to be summoned before the end of the term, who it is believed will be of another temper. The trial of the Lord Aston is put off and leave given to have him bailed. Yesterday

the Duke of Buckingham had a verdict against Mr. Christian, Mr. Blood, Mr. Curtis and another person for subornation of perjury in the case of Le-Mar. 1,800 foot are to be sent out of Ireland and Scotland to make up the number of the 4,000 for the service of Tangier. The presentment of the Duke for a Papist was brought to the Grand Jury, signed by the following persons as prosecutors: Earl of Shaftesbury, Earl Huntington, Lord Grey, Lord Russell, Lord Cavendish, Mr. Wharton (eldest son to Lord Wharton), Sir Scroop Hore, Sir Edward Hungerford, Sir [Henry] Calverly, Mr. Forester, Mr. Thyn.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, June 26. Whitehall.—I have the honour of two letters from your Grace of the 16th current by your express, together with an extract of your Grace's letters to Mr. Secretary Coventry, as also to my Lord of Essex and the late Lord Treasurer. I have also a list of the Bills transmitted hither under the Great Seal of that kingdom. I want words to acknowledge the condescension you are pleased to use towards me in this and other occasions, but shall not be wanting by the help of God in my best endeavours to do what your Grace hath all reason to expect at my hands. 'Tis probable there will be those whose interests will bring them to find fault with some things in the Bills now sent over. When it shall be on the other side considered that your Grace and the Council there had no other view nor interest but that of the King's service and the public good, I doubt not but that which is well projected will be well received and have a general approbation here; I have that reverence for your Grace's particular great lights and the public wisdom on that side that I shall come to attend the service of these Bills with a very great deference and respect for those that framed them, and give your Grace the best account I can of what passes.

As for Mr. David Fitzgerald, I moved the Council, His Majesty being present, that some course might be taken to oblige him to hasten over to attend those trials where he hath some things to say as a witness for the King. I was answered that he should be in Ireland time enough for the Limerick Assizes. I take leave to enclose a petition of his that was read last day in Council; as also a letter which His Majesty hath been pleased to write to the Lord Dunkellin, and another to my Lord the Earl of Clanrickarde, his father, to the end your Grace may see the favour intended to my Lord the son, and be pleased to promote His Majesty's good intentions for and expectations from that Lord. [Encloses the two following letters.]

KING'S LETTER to LORD DUNKELLIN.

1680, June 23, Whitehall.—It is with singular great satisfaction that we have understood of your being thoroughly

instructed in the true Protestant religion as it stands established by law in that our kingdom. And that you have thereupon united yourself to the Protestant Church there, having forsaken that of Rome. We shall not enlarge to tell you how great a gainer you are in several respects by this exchange; but we are glad of this occasion to observe to you that you have happily rescued yourself from a foreign jurisdiction and dependance which too many of our subjects in Ireland do make a main essential point of their Christianity; and yet that dependance is such as hath always given jealousies to the Crown, and sometimes brought it to great extremities of danger, most especially in the late Irish rebellion, which was entered into merely for maintaining of that dependance and yet was so cruel that no Christian can think of it without horror. The religion that you have now embraced teaches you better things, not allowing so much as the possibility of a case where it may be lawful for subjects to take up arms against their sovereign. As such a religion is the best security to the public peace, so upon your professing of it we are readily inclined to allow you the same privileges which our other Protestant subjects of your quality do enjoy. We have therefore ordered our Chancellor of that our kingdom to insert your name in the Commission of the Peace and to issue out our gracious writ of summons when a Parliament is called in that our kingdom, whereby you may sit as a Baron in our House of Peers in the right of one of the ancient baronies belonging to your family, to the end you may miss no opportunity nor advantage incident to your quality to assert and maintain the true Protestant religion, as also to maintain as occasion shall require the rights of the Crown, together with the liberties and properties of our subjects, and so we bid you heartily farewell.

KING'S LETTER TO EARL OF CLANRICKARDE.

1680, June 23.—Having out of our special grace and favour to your son the Lord Viscount Dunkellin thought fit to put him into several commissions of trust and honour in that our kingdom, and to order our Chancellor there to issue out our gracious writ of summons to him whereby he may take his place as Baron in our House of Peers in the next Parliament to be holden in Ireland, We cannot but express our confidence in you that you will receive this honour done to your son as a mark of our favour and esteem for yourself and your family, and that upon this consideration you will make your son such an allowance for the support of himself, his wife and children as may bear a proportion with those dignities we have or shall confer upon him. His present circumstances do make it necessary that we press you earnestly in this point, and we hope that your compliance will be as cheerful and liberal as our recommendation of your son's case is just and seasonable. To this we expect your speedy answer.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, July 1.—Being confined to my chamber by a little lameness (which I hope will not continue long upon me) I could not wait upon your Grace, and therefore have presumed to send your Grace the enclosed, that you may understand the unfit condition of that man to be Mayor of Limerick whom they have this year made choice of because it happened to him by succession; he is a person so declaredly opposite to the Church and to conformity that I presume your Grace will not hold him fit for so great a trust; there are several worthy persons who may be very fit for that employment in these times: I shall not trouble your Grace with the names of any of them until I shall have the opportunity of attending your Grace; but I held it necessary to give your Grace at present some short account thereof, lest the business might have come before your Grace this afternoon at the Council.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, July 3, London.—On Wednesday morning, being last day of the term, the Lords and others who before had signed the presentment of the Duke came to Westminster Hall with an intention [to send] the said presentment to another Grand Jury who were then sitting, but the Grand Jury were met so privately they came away without their ends, but it is said they still endeavour to arrive at them, and are ready against the Quarter Sessions to be held shortly at Hicks Hall with the said presentment. On Thursday in the evening His Majesty returned again to Windsor.

We have no news from Tangier since my last, the Earl of Ossory making his daily preparation for his voyage thither. The forces to attend him are a regiment of 600 foot to be commanded by the Earl of Plymouth, Mr. Kirke, Col. Charles Trelawny, Major, to be new raised here; 200 foot to be sent out of Ireland to recruit the Irish companies in Tangier; 400 out of Scotland to recruit the Lord Dumbarton's regiment there; 300 to be sent out of Ireland, which are to be mounted on Spanish horse at Cales, from whence they are to be transported to Tangier.

The Judges being summoned to appear at the last Council, had instructions given them to be observed in their next circuits, which were to this effect: that they should take particular care to have well principled men of the Grand Juries in their respective circuits; that they should put the laws against Popish recusants strictly in execution, and that they should distinguish between Papists and other Protestant dissenters; that for the satisfying men's minds, and to prevent the seditious way of tumultuary petitioning, they should acquaint the Justices of Peace and gentlemen of the Grand Juries in their counties that it was His Majesty's firm resolution the Parliament should undoubtedly sit in November at farthest. The Attorney General and King's

Counsel being likewise summoned, were ordered to consult and bring in their opinions, whether by the Act for regulating Corporations the livery men of the several companies within the City of London are obliged to take the oaths, receive the Sacrament, and subscribe the declaration mentioned therein.

Mr. Savile is lately returned out of France, whither it is said he very suddenly repairs again. The King of France is this night expected at Dunkirk, and the Earl of Oxford goes on His Majesty's part to compliment him there, and Col. Churchill from the Duke. The Bishop of St. Asaph is lately dead, and Dr. Lloyd, of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, it is supposed, will succeed him in that Bishopric. The Irish Bills are all transcribed according to order, but as yet no committee is appointed to take them into consideration.

EARL OF DERBY to ORMOND.

1680, July 5, Knowsley.—I cannot express how well I am pleased to hear your Grace likes the hawks I sent last. As I was ashamed there was but one cast, so now I am very glad your Grace pardons me for that fault. But I promise you what hawks can be got the next year shall all be at your service, and I hope there will be more then, because I will for the future have more care taken of the eyries than has been yet. Your Grace's falconer told me he thought you had some hawks to spare, which encouraged me to make your Grace a request for one. The greatest plenty we have of game is partridge and woodcocks, crows and herons, but I humbly leave for what game the hawks should be to your Grace's judgment, for I own myself so ignorant of hawking that I cannot pretend to know what game please me best. But you have so given me encouragement as the advice about a faulkner, for which I give you most humble thanks, and the other the invitation your Grace is pleased to make me, I esteem to that degree that I must personally acknowledge the honour your Grace has done me so soon as I can, that whatever happens nothing can dishearten me from that sport, but I will endeavour as much as in me lies to learn something of the same. I must not omit any longer giving your Grace an account of Parson Piggot, who did so brag of your Grace's kindness to him, with what splendour and ceremony he was received, particularly by the clergy in Ireland at his going over there with my Lady Arran, and what preferments he might have had if he had so thought fit to have received them, that he gave me a hint once something to this purpose, as if for his sake I might be well received there. I mention this to show your Grace how well he would have the world to think of him. I will only tell you thus much of him—he is not a man at all beloved by the gentry, for there is few knows what to make of him. He

speaks loud for the Church of England, but at the same time he offered his parishioners at Rochdale, that if they would pay for a curate they might choose whom they would and he would approve of the choice. I thought it my duty to acquaint you concerning this divine; yet if I have been too forward in this I humbly ask your Grace's pardon, and I will trouble you no further only this much, if you would have a further account of what I now say, your Grace will then wonder he durst show his face to you after what he endeavoured to do, which I have under his own hand.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, July 6, Whitehall.—Last post I sent you a copy of my letter to my Lord Sunderland. The enclosed, which I met yesterday at Windsor from Sir Palmes Farebone, I think fortifies what I wrote upon the subject of Tangier. Yesterday morning the King commanded the Earl of Sunderland and myself to attend him about the choice of officers. I desired that the project of what was intended might first be established, upon which the said lord said that if nothing was to be proposed as to augmentation since in that there was an impossibility, and that if I could not defend the place, as he thought I could not, that I might, if I had time, represent so much here, or else leave it the best way I could. I replied that the commission was no way agreeable, and that few who value their honour would willingly undertake it. His lordship said that if nothing were done the people in the streets would throw stones. I answered that if more men and treasure were employed upon a vain undertaking that ten for one would be cast at the advisers. Thus ended the consultation. In the afternoon I got the King alone, and told him that I thought myself bound to let him know that by what we heard, and by the opinion of every man that has been on the field or appointed to go thither, that anything like the supplies intended would prove insignificant, and that though I would obey him always, yet I desired not to undertake a service wherein I thought certainly to miscarry. He said he intended me this as a pleasure, and that no harm was done if I declined, and that he would take other measures. He seemed not in the least displeased, but I will not answer how the ministers may strive to exasperate him; though I said that when I had thus declared myself he should always find me obedient, but that I hoped he would not enforce upon me impossibilities or employment to lose my reputation. Afterward I gave the Duke an account of this conversation, who seemed satisfied, and told me I should in this and all things else find his kindness. The thing is secret, and I desire you not to impart it unto any. You may let my mother and my wife know that my going is not so sure as when I wrote last.

ORMOND to SIR STEPHEN FOX.

1680, July 6, Dublin.—It is long since I ought to have acknowledged to you the part I take in the constant obligations you have laid upon me in the care and kindness you have expressed to my niece Hamilton in all her concerns. It is not over usual that men remember the friendships they have had so long and so usefully where there is so little expectation of suitable returns ; but as I ought to put myself into the place of my dead nephew and take his obligations upon me, so I desire you to believe I will never forget the kindness you have shown to his wife and children. My niece is lately gone hence, having entertained me with fresh instances of your great civilities to her.

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, July 6. Dublin.—I could not better give you my sense of your employment in Tangier than by a transcript of my letter to your mother, who, with your wife, are at Kilkenny. You may be sure there will not be the [] shall be [] from [] of your concernment. I doubt not but that many young men will go from hence in a belief that they show you affection and kindness. Yet I know how troublesome that sort of people are and that they may be more so in a straitened garrison. But on the other hand I do not find that our nation need discouragements to keep them at home. Let me know how you are inclined in the matter. I like your son being in the Academy, if Whitehall and his friends were not so near ; but I will hereafter entertain my Lord Chamberlain on that subject ; in the meantime a suit a month is a larger wardrobe than any of his forefathers had. I have much to write by this post and can spare you no more time.

————— to MR. JAMES CLARKE.

1680, July 13, London.—For my Lord's service at Tangier I am commanded to send you the enclosed list of live provisions and other stores that his lordship desires may be made there out of her Grace's stores, and shipped on a vessel hired for the purpose at Kinsale, to sail under convoy of the ships that will be ordered to transport 600 soldiers for Tangier. This matter his lordship would have you to acquaint her Grace withal, and to proceed as you find orders from hence for the transportation of the said 600 men, which orders (my lord says) will go hence to my lord Lieutenant this night.

The reason that have moved his lordship to this is the low price that provisions is at there, that they have a shorter way to sail than from hence, and especially because he must hold little or no communication with the Spanish coast, the plague being in their borders (as His Majesty is informed), and we are told that 5*l.* will buy more provisions in Ireland than can be had for 30*l.* at Tangier, besides the trouble and

hazard of fetching the same under convoy either from Spain or Oran, on the coast of Barbary. What servants you give the charge of these things unto must be paid for their voyage (as you can agree) and returned to Ireland again, if they like not to engage in the service there. [Encloses list of provisions.]

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, July 13, London.—The last Council-day being taken up chiefly with the hearing a long cause concerning the Corporation of Tiverton, in Devonshire, I did not give your Grace the trouble of a letter by the last post. After the determining the cause His Majesty was pleased upon a petition of Mrs. Hyde (daughter-in-law to Sir Robert Vyner) to grant a Commission of Review (which is the last appeal) the Judges' delegates having given judgment in affirmance of the marriage betwixt the petitioner and Mr. Emerson already.

One Mr. Doughty, being condemned for murder, the bailiff of Westminster on Friday morning broke into a house (formerly Mr. Doughty's, but now taken by lease by the envoy of the Duke of Savoy), which being complained of to the committee of Lords then sitting, Mr. Stroud was sent for before them, who refused to deliver up the possession, and was thereupon sent to the Tower and his servants to the gate-house, from whence they all came in two hours by *habeas corpus*. Their Lordships thereupon ordered Mr. Attorney General to inspect the Chamber of Westminster, and if by any of his irregular proceedings the bailiff, Mr. Stroud, have forfeited his place to evict him thereof by law. This morning the Justices of Peace of the liberties upon view of the force have recorded Mr. Stroud and his servants guilty of a riot and put them out of possession of the said house, and restored the envoy again thereto.

The Earl of Inchiquin is returned from Tangier. He waited upon His Majesty at Windsor, but the King refused to let him kiss his hand. This day his Lordship was before the Committee of Tangier (His Majesty being present, but his papers not being yet ready, he had nothing said him of the faults that are laid to his charge, and was only asked concerning the condition which the town and garrison was in when he left it. His lordship referred himself in that likewise to his papers for the particulars, but in general he seems to think the town in a weak condition enough, and therefore advises a peace which, he says, may be had upon very advantageous terms for His Majesty, but that the Moors will not suffer any of the outforts or fortifications ever to be repaired again; and his lordship agrees that whenever the Moors will break the peace, the town without the outworks must be in great danger. The commissions of raising the regiment of foot and six hundred horse were this day signed by His Majesty, but I perceive His Majesty doth not intend the Earl of Ossory shall begin his voyage to Tangier so soon

as was at first resolved. A courier is this day despatched over land to Tangier with a project of peace to be offered by Sir Palmes Fairbone to the Alcayde with instructions to him to endeavour to procure prolonging the present truce for two months.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1680, July 15.—The Act being now over, it will be fit that I render an account of that part thereof which my Lord James supported. And this I shall very cheerfully do, he having acquitted himself excellently well. And if hereafter he speaks with the same assurance and advantage in Parliament and Council and the head of an army as he did in our great audience, he will not fail to answer all your Excellency's both expectations and desires in that particular. I am further at this time to represent unto your Excellency the state of your University in reference to a Vice-Chancellor for the following year. The present man has with great prudence and dexterity performed his duty, but of late there having been examples that his predecessors have been dismissed after a year's service, and the straitness of his fortune not well consisting with the necessary expenses of that office, he is very desirous to be dismissed. On the other hand, it is plainly the interest of the University that Vice-Chancellors should be continued at least for two years, not only because that else they will still quit their office when they begin to understand it perfectly, but also because that else there will not easily be found fit men enough to succeed into the employment, and at this day some of our heads of houses not being divines, others being disabled by age or sickness, it is very hard to find a man in whose hand the government of the University may safely be deposited, when the present Vice-Chancellor shall be dismissed. When Mr. Dean of Limerick returns, I shall give your Excellency a further account, but this I thought necessary to intimate at the instant.

VICE-CHANCELLOR OF OXFORD (TIMOTHY HALTON) to ORMOND.

1680, July 16, Queen's College, Oxford.—I have with what faithfulness I could discharged that great trust your Excellency was pleased to lay upon me in this University for this last year. But by reason of my many disabilities I could not answer your Excellency's expectation, and therefore I most humbly beseech that you will be pleased to make choice of some other person who may discharge the office to the greater honour of the University than possibly could be done by, &c.

REV. P. DRELINCOURT to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1680, July 16.—Voicy la mesure de mylord James selon l'ordre que j'ay reçu de l'envoyer à vôtre grandeur. Il

nous semble icy que mylord est cru considerablement depuis un an, et quoy qu'il ne soit pas si gras qu'il était l'année passée, cependant il a un peu trop d'embonpoint, à mon avis, nonobstant qu'il fasse icy toute l'exercise que l'on peut attendre du lieu ; il y a plus de neuf mois qu'il se lève régulièrement a cinq heures et demyes, sans manquer il monte a cheval des jours entiers, et dans la saison nous chassons toutes les semaines, et aussy souvent que M. nôtre bon Evêque nous le permet. Mylord fait aussy des armes en particulier, n'y ayant point icy de maitre pour luy montrer. Il joue aussy, quelques fois à la paulme, mais il n'y a pas beaucoup d'inclination, de quoy Mr. nôtre Doyen n'est pas fâché. Il marche beaucoup soir et matin, et hors ses heures d'étude il est toujours en action le reste du jour. Il est assurément, Madame, beaucoup plus vif et plus actif que vôtre grandeur ne l'a point encore veu. Sa santé du reste est très bonne, et il devient fort robuste. Je suis toujours dans le sentiment qu'une bonne academie luy seroit fort necessaire ; cependant je say bien, Madame, que c'est à moy a me soumettre (comme je fais) en silence et avec respect aus ordres et aus sentiments de M. le Duc, souhaitant passionément et contribuant de tout mon pouvoir et avec sincerité que la demeure de mylord icy luy soit enfin aussy avantageuse que sa grandeur peut ou desirer ou esperer. Permettez moy, je vous supplie, Madame, de vous dire librement entre vôtre grandeur et moy, qu'il y auroit quelque sujet de craindre avec le temps que les tentations et les exemples continuelles de buvette icy ne luy devinssent contagieuses et ne gagnassent enfin quelque pied sur ses bons principes nonobstant tout le soin et toute l'exactitude qu'on y peut apporter.

Au reste mylord fit icy des merveilles la semaine dernière en nôtre grande solemnité au Theatre publick, ou il parla avec toute la liberté, la hardiesse, la gentillesse, la bonne grace et le succez que l'on peut esperer, et même au dela.

J'ay bien de la joye d'apprendre, Madame, que M. le Comte se trouve beaucoup mieux de la goutte. Je fais tous les jours des voeus tres sincères et tres ardents pour la santé, la gloire, et la prosperite de cet illustre Epoux aussy bien que pour celle de vôtre grandeur et de tout ce qui luy appartient, etant inviolablement, &c.*

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, July 17, Whitehall.—I have the honour of a letter from your Grace of the 6th current, which I acknowledge with all humble thanks possible. There is nothing yet so much as begun upon the Bills that your Grace hath transmitted hither ; only they are transcribing for the several hands that are to use them—His Majesty being so much of his time at Windsor, and the incident of Tangier not allowing time enough yet for so serious a deliberation.

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

On midsummer day there were two sheriffs chosen—Bethell and Cornish, but they being not qualified having not received the sacrament in twelve months before, and having refused the bond that the Court of Aldermen offered them to the end to tie them fast to hold to the place they were chosen to, Wednesday last was appointed for a Common Hall to choose new ones in their place. There was a world of insolencies committed in the Hall that day; one of the sheriffs was taken by the throat and punched in the breast, and all this by the fanatic party who will have the sheriffs first chosen (who have since Wednesday the sacrament) to hold, notwithstanding that the Court of Aldermen hath declared them incapable of being chosen (having once refused and being fined) for this year. Yet that party would by all means have a poll for them. Their names are Cornish, a Presbyterian, and Bethell, a member of the late Committee of Safety, and in that quality most abjured the R-line. Against them are set up two honest gents, Box and Nicholson, and there hath been a poll of the livery-men on Thursday and yesterday, which being not finished is adjourned to Monday. 'Tis thought the majority will prove to be for Box and Cornish. The confidences of the restless party are very great, and so is their diligence at this pinch. I beseech God to bless His Majesty. Such collisions are not without danger. I do not presume to trouble your Grace with the enormous excesses of the head bailiff of Westminster, knowing that Sir James Butler will give your Grace an account of that affair, and take your Grace's directions upon it.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, July 17, London.—On Wednesday morning last just before the Council met, one Owen Callaghan applied himself to me with an account of great discoveries he could make of several persons having a hand in the Popish plot who were of the kingdom of Ireland. I (according to my duty) brought him to the Council, who ordered him to attend your Grace, and have transmitted his information, together with a letter from the Board to your Grace by this post. Your Grace will likewise receive two letters in answer to your Grace's, one being concerning Capt. Patrick Lavalline; the other relating to the titular Bishop of Limerick, and the Popish titular dignitaries in Ireland. His Majesty was at that time pleased to declare that the prorogation of the Parliament should be to the 23rd of August next, and the commission is preparing accordingly.

On Wednesday in the evening His Majesty commanded the summoning a Council at seven o'clock, where the Lord Mayor of London and Aldermen attended, and giving an account of some disturbances which had happened that morning in the Hall upon the occasion of electing sheriffs of London for the next year, and particularly that one of the

present sheriffs endeavouring to adjourn the poll about twelve o'clock was struck by one Osborne, master of the Salters' company, on the breast, and very much bruised, a special commission of oyer and terminer was ordered to be issued out for the trial of the said Osborne and others concerned in that tumultuous way of proceeding. The poll continued all Thursday and Friday, Cornish and Bethell being set up by the factious party, and Box and Nicholson by the others. This day being the day of sessions, the poll was adjourned till Monday, which it is supposed will end the dispute, and at present there is not much difference in the votes.

The Commissioners for raising the forces for Tangier are given out, and the drums beating for raising the men. The horse men come in very readily, but the foot but slowly. The Marquis d'Augeau is arrived here out of France with a compliment to His Majesty from his Master.

EARL OF OSSORY to ORMOND.

1680, July 17, Windsor.—I hope you will pardon my curiosity in opening the inclosed, imagining that it did concern me and the present expedition. I will employ all my endeavours, and hope that God will supply the weakness of the means that are appointed for me. I cannot write either to my mother or my wife, not having anything material to say; besides I am a little indisposed in my eyes, and I abstain writing as much as possible for fear of a relapse.

NETTERVILLE to EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, July.—The Farmers have declared to the King that if these Bills go on they must quit the farm, and have desired that they may have their advance money and so be at quiet; this also they have declared to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and have also declared if my Lord of Ormond have any other set of people that he had rather should have the revenue than they, they are willing to resign it; they have also declared that the country cannot bear any taxes, for they are poor, and the money current in specie is not above 30,000*l.* in the whole kingdom, and the Farmers declare to me that if their farm be dissolved, which the present Acts will certainly do, that though they be all hanged at Tyburn some great men shall pay for it, and that dearly too, though the Duke of York espoused their [cause], and do bid defiance to the greatest men that lives to ruin them if he dares; this they told me in some rage two days ago, but of this not one word for your life, and do say that the Parliament in Ireland shall not sit, and if they do those that think to carry all, shall be much mistaken and laughed at into the bargain. The Farmers if the Parliament do sit, will go to the House of Commons and declare the state of Ireland and their reasons for not passing the Acts; they do tell the King that if the pretences be to get money by a new law, they will show the King how he may by the laws in being levy 300,000*l.* which he is entitled

to, and do say that the Lord Lieutenant will find more difficulties in the Parliament of Ireland than he thinks, and this they assured me as also that I might take my measures of them, and their knowledge in Ireland of this assertion of theirs, and I do believe them in that as I do in any other matter, and they are no fools; besides they will set forth all the state of Ireland to the Parliament here, if ever they sit. And this, my Lord, they do openly declare, and also declare that they do not value any man for his greatness or power, whoever he is, though they are assisted by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Lanesborough, Col. Dillon, Nick Armorer, Mr. Ellis, with his coach and six horses. Things my Lord are come to another kind of posture than you can possibly imagine, though you may think my letter the discourse of coffee houses and the *male* contents, yet you will find them to be syllobycally true at the long run, and pray do you remember I have told you of it.

Says my Lord Shaftesbury: "What! does Ireland, the snake, which we have harboured in our bosom and warmed it then when it could scarce live, think to give law to England? To give money to make the King independent of his people, to raise an army if they be so powerful! It's time for England to look about them, to make it a province; and for the grants of Ireland contrary to the intents of the declaration, and which has swallowed the satisfaction of Protestant adventurers, and soldiers, they will vote them null and void, and make a law also to that purpose. Lord Strafford thought to have saved his neck by sheltering it under the law there, that a law did this, and by a law that was done; but the Parliament here knew very well how laws in subordinate governments are compassed; and how also Privy Councillors are made there too, who transmit the Bills." This Sir William Cooper told me, so I do judge some letters came out of Ireland to that effect, or else somebody well knowing in the affairs of Ireland was with my Lord Shaftesbury to inform him of all matters, for he has the names of all the Council that were for and against the Bills there, and also the measures of their understandings and capacities with their estates, substance and dependencies on the King; of all this for your life speak not one word. He also told me that Strafford was a ——— and lost his head too, and he did not question but to see those who thought to bring England under the same tyranny my Lord of Strafford did to have the same fate. My Lord, till you assure me you have burnt or destroyed all my letters, I dare not write any more to you, for we live in dangerous times. Pray let me except my Lord Lieut. see my letters.

[*Endorsed*: "Mr. Netterville's letter received the 19th July, 1680."]

ORMOND TO EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, July 20.—In one of Mr. Netterville's he tells you the East India ships are arrived, which I wish may hasten your journey that you may be upon the place before the Bills be

returned or wholly laid aside, that you may expedite your own affairs and return to us before the ill weather we are to expect about Michaelmas. Your lordship will observe your correspondent continues the freedom of his style, exalts the powerfulness of the Farmers, their magnanimity, their desperate intentions, and that with all this he would terrify me to a very humble compliance with them. Your lordship will further observe that my Lord Lanesborough, Cary Dillon and Ellis are added to the number of my Governors, and it is not his least mistake that he allows Ellis six horses to his coach, whereas I doubt he has but four and erects a chariot to the dignity of a coach. I could not imagine how Cary Dillon came to be a Governor till I remembered I had the ill fortune to be a small obstruction to his pretensions: after all he is damnably afraid his intelligence should come to be confronted and therefore repeats his conjurations of secrecy so often, yet after all this he is not to be angered, for as the hot weather is or may be, the most despicable insects may be troublesome, and so much for your correspondent. I am in good hope that some time next week I may be at Kilkenny, and if you resolve for England sooner than you intended, you will do best in case of your sudden going to leave my daughter at Kilkenny, or to bring her hither and leave her to my conduct.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, July 24, London.—I am very sorry to be one of those that give your Grace an account of my Lord Ossory's indisposition, and that he hath at present an intermitting fever, which hath been upon him these five or six days, but it is hoped he is something better than he hath been at the beginning of his distemper.

The last Council day was read a letter from Murphy to Hetherington, in which he complained that Oliver Plunket's trial was to be at Dundalk, which would be a great discouragement to himself and several others who would be evidence against him, which occasioned the letter from the Board to your Grace and Council recommending the having the said Oliver Plunket tried at the King's Bench at Dublin only. A commission was likewise then ordered to be issued forth empowering the Admiralty to give commissions of reprisal to such merchants who trading to the straits should desire the same against the Algerines, as likewise another commission to empower two officers of the Navy Board to impress artificers and workmen for the King's ships now building and repairing in the yards, according to a former precedent in the 16th year of His Majesty's reign upon the request of the Admiralty. The poll for the sheriffs of London is ended since Thursday last, but the present sheriffs have taken time till Sunday next to declare who is chosen by the majority, but it is agreed by all that Cornish and Bethell have the greatest numbers.

The Earl of Oxford is returned from Dunkirk with a present to the value of nine hundred pounds. The Earl of Carlisle is upon his voyage hither from Jamaica.

The Irish Bills remain still in the Attorney General's hands, and have not yet been read by the Board.

DENNY MUSCHAMP to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680, July 24, London.—This town has been more alarmed at the apprehensions of my Lord Ossory's sickness than at the loss of Tangier. Yesterday I spent my whole time running to the several coffee houses, where, greatly to my satisfaction, it was the whole discourse amongst the rankest and most accursed Presbyterians the great loss that this nation would have in the loss of my Lord Ossory. It's really hard to relate with what hearty affection all people speak of him. God be praised, he is very much better this afternoon than he was last night. The not operation of the Jesuit's powder which he took yesterday did much to frighten us, but now he is pretty well and his fever abates as well as his drowsiness, and by the next post I hope to tell you he is well. [Extract forwarded to Ormond.]

ORMOND to EARL OF CORK.

1680, July 24, Dublin.—I have proposed to myself to be at Kilkenny the last of this month, foreseeing nothing that is like to disappoint my purpose; yet as the times are it is possible a packet out of England may do it. There are two at the waterside, besides Sir James Shaen and his brethren, but if they should bring me business they may, if they think it worth the pains, follow me. My Lord of Ranelagh has brought his accounts to a balance, which I am told will weigh heavy on him and his partners. Yet I will bear him witness it has not been for want of ability or industry, and I am confident all that are engaged with him put together could not have come off so well without him. The intimation I give your lordship of my intended journey should have been as far as Lismore, but that I am not in any degree so much master of my time as I am with all reality, &c.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, July 27, Arlington House.—The last carried your Grace the ill news of my Lord of Ossory's sickness, since when we have suffered sharp alarm by the increase of it; but this day, God be thanked, all symptoms are much more favourable, of which your Grace receives a particular account under the physicians' hands, wherein yet I cannot forbear saying to you that they speak yet more hopefully than they have written. It ought somewhat to alleviate your Grace's grief to know how this whole town of all sorts are concerned for my lord your son's recovery, and I hope in God their good wishes will yet keep him among us. But let him recover never so fast

it cannot possibly be so fast as to enable him to make the expedition for Tangier, which, when he is well enough to understand, will be of no small satisfaction to him, for never man was put upon a thing so against his mind, as being of so hazardous an event in point of reputation (as he thought and not without reason). It exercises everybody's guesses who will be now named to the command, it being concluded impossible to find another so fit for it. I leave it to others to tell your Grace what report my Lord of Mulgrave brings from Tangier, my time having been wholly taken up in looking after your son. I opened yesterday his letters from Ireland, and amongst them that your Grace sent with copies of what correspondence is held betwixt the Bishop and Col. Mansel. All I could do with them was to read them directly to His Majesty, which I immediately did, desiring him to send you by this post his directions upon them. I have nothing to add but to pray God the next may carry your Grace better news of this your great concernment. I could not omit inclosing herein the letter I receive just now from Windsor that your Grace may see to what degree the King and Queen are concerned for my Lord of Ossory. [Encloses the following letter.]

RICHARD COLINGE to EARL OF ARLINGTON.

1680, July 27, two of the clock, Windsor Castle.—All this morning His Majesty was very inquisitive and impatient to hear how my Lord Ossory did, and as soon as your lordship's came to my hands, which was about one of the clock, I showed it His Majesty at dinner. He was very much satisfied with the account your lordship hath given, and desires by all means that the physicians may continue giving the drops and in a great quantity, to try the utmost that can be done, since there seems to be some good symptoms from what hath been given already. His Majesty desires he may hear often how he does, and is pleased to express a great sorrow, and that he shall have the greatest loss, and cannot speak of him but with great concern, and sometimes with tears in his eyes. The Queen hath wept often, and is very sad, and so is the whole Court—a place seldom generally concerned for any one. The Earl of Rochester is dead, of which His Majesty had notice last night. Dr. Dickinson is of opinion the drops should be continued and given to four score or a hundred drops. God preserve your lordship and yours in this time of danger, where the symptoms are so malignant.

REPORT of PHYSICIANS ATTENDING LORD OSSORY to EARL OF ARLINGTON.

1680, July 28.—Since our last my lord's fever hath increased much, with great signs of malignity, particularly a great fainting fit, and an eruption of spots all over his body. He hath been delirious these three days, and his water like small beer, and hitherto he hath had no sweats neither could

they conveniently be forced by reason of the great burning heat of his head, which hath accompanied his fever. This afternoon his delirium hath somewhat abated, and his pulse keeps up tolerably well, which gives us some hopes. We have treated him with remedies suitable to his condition and shall continue our care and diligence as becomes those who are sensible of the great quality and worth of his person.

[Signed] THO. WITHERLEY, W. NEEDHAM, TH. SYDENHAM,
FERD. MENDAS, RICHD. LOWER.

MR. MULYS to [HENRY GASCOIGNE.]

1680, July 28.—On the 25th I sent you a diary of my lord's condition from the time that his fever seized him to 10 that night, and did hope this post might have afforded more comfort. But our troubles and frights have ever since increased as his disease hath heightened. Saturday night and Sunday morning he was very restless, and tho' I called to the assistance of the physicians formerly mentioned to you, Dr. Walter Needham (Sir Charles Scarborough and Dr. Dickinson being at Windsor attending the Duchess' daughter, the Lady Isabella, ill of convulsions) and Dr. Sydenham, we could not find that his lordship found any relief from anything that they have prescribed from the beginning. On Sunday night his fever returned and kept him raving till 8 the next morning. Sunday in the forenoon I besought my Lord Arlington that I might get a Divine to him whilst his understanding remained, and accordingly I fetched Dr. Lloyd, the Bishop of St. Asaph elect, and about 4 that afternoon they were private above an hour to the very great satisfaction of both. It was then resolved that on the morrow morning his lordship should receive the Sacrament, and accordingly I prepared to receive with him, and the Bishop came about 7 of the clock, but finding his lordship in a delirium he sat by the bed to watch an interval to speak to him, when all of a sudden his lordship rose up in his bed to get out of it, and upon laying him down again a swoonding fit seized him, and for about an hour we all gave him for dead; at last the spirit of hartshorn applied to his nostrils, cordials, rubbing with warm cloths, &c., it pleased God he revived. The physicians agreed to let him blood, finding on his hands, arms, and breast indications for it, and accordingly eight ounces were taken from his left arm, after which the spirits returned into his eyes, and we began to have new hopes. In the afternoon he was restored to his understanding and our joy doubled. In the evening they bled him again in the foot, hoping to draw it from his head, but about 11 at night his fit grew strong upon him, and we expected every minute he would expire. The Queen's physician, Dr. Mendas, watched with him. The night was very bad, as can be imagined. This morning he dozes, and to deal plainly with you, I do not expect he can outlive it, though while he has life there is hopes. Dr. Lower tells me they have

but one good sign, viz., his pulse keeps up; a great many bad ones appear, as fits spots, though they put out but faintly; moisture about his tongue, his teeth furred: his water now casts white, which they apprehend, for that thick cloud and muddiness which was wont to be in it and stained the glass does now offend the head and the brain, to disperse which and make room for the spirits they put twenty drops of Godderd's drops into his beer, or other draughts, and have this day laid pigeons to the soles of his feet. At 5 this evening the physicians have a council and agree what further method to use; I have got them to write to his Grace an account of my lord's present state, a copy of which my Lord Chamberlain sends this night to the King. Perhaps this account may not agree with what you may receive from other hands. I desire no use may be made of it to afflict their Graces or confront those better accounts you may have from better hands, and that I may find pardon for telling this truth.

My Lord Mulgrave is returned to Windsor, and 'tis said in much grace; people about the town say he hath kissed the King's hands for the Government of Ireland, but I do not believe it. Yesterday I received your letters of the 20th. Mr. Netterville prays you to forward the passing of his patent.

Postscript.—Several polls declared. 20 July, '80.

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|----------|----------|---------|------------|
| Bethell. | Cornish. | Box. | Nicholson. |
| 2274 | .. 2481 | .. 1428 | .. 1229 |

ORMOND to EARL OF OSSORY.

1680, July 28, Dublin.—This will contain little more than my letter to the King, which I desire you would deliver upon the first opportunity after you have received it. I have your short letter of the 17th inst. The twelve Scotch companies sailed from Kinsale the 15th or 16th of this month. We may hope they may be there now or in a few days. The commanded men to recruit the last five companies of that regiment and the commanded horse are drawing to the rendezvous about Cork, and I suppose the Farmers of the Revenue are preparing provisions for their transportation. The freight of ships for that voyage is extravagantly dear here, as you will find by Ja. Clarke and Sir Richard Rooth. My Lord of Ranelagh's accounts being brought so far towards a conclusion as that there remains nothing more for me to do, I go to-morrow towards Kilkenny, where I shall be more ready than here to supply any defect that may be in the sending the men to Tangier. My Lord of Ranelagh has brought in a very civil appeal from the proceedings of the Council and the Commissioners of his Accounts in several particulars. The appeal is partly to the King and partly to the law. Our informer of the Presbyterian Scottish plot is very large in his information and very particular. There is a very ill character

given of him, and I believe him to be a man of no excellent morals, but such are most of these we have had to do withal on such occasions. Yours at Kilkenny are well. I hope to hear as much from Knowsley.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, July 29, Whitehall.—The two despatches from your Grace and His Majesty's Privy Council there, bearing date the 16th current were this day, by His Majesty's special command, read before my Lords the Committee of the Council here for the affairs of Ireland. Their lordships were pleased to command me to let your Grace know they are very sensible of your Grace's great care in this affair, and to desire your Grace to continue your endeavours to apprehend and secure the three unknown persons that landed at Cork, and to inform yourself whether the Lord Bishop of Waterford hath any correspondence with or knowledge of James Hackett *alias* Hara the Jacobin, mentioned in some of the papers sent over by your Grace in that despatch which related to Hackett and Macarty. The other despatch relating to Johnston, together with the papers belonging to it, was by order of my Lords transmitted to his Grace the Duke of Lauderdale, This was all I had in command.

VISCOUNT GRANARD to [EARL OF ARBAN.]

1680, July 30, London.—Woe is me that I can acquaint your lordship with the death of my brave Lord of Ossory; his sickness occasioned my silence hitherto, still hoping to be rather the messenger of good than bad news; but he is gone to rest and has left the generality of mankind in tears and trouble; I cannot write to my Lord Lieutenant, knowing his grief must be insupportable for the like loss was never made. The narrative of all you will have from my Lord Arlington, whom I left just now in tears writing to my Lord Lieutenant. God comfort you all.

I have much to write to his Grace, but truly I am so confounded that I must be silent; only the King is seemingly convinced of the necessity of a Parliament in Ireland, and so is most of the Council with whom I have spoken; by my next his Grace shall have a full account of what may be expected. The King is out of town, but expected here on Tuesday; then they speak of falling to work about our Irish affairs. Your lordship will excuse me to my Lord Lieutenant. Be pleased to honour me with your commands, for truly I am, &c.

JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD, to ORMOND.

1680, July 31, Oxford.—We are here under the consternation which the loss of my Lord Ossory brings with it. But although your Excellency's share therein be infinitely the greatest

yet is your courage and constancy in the same proportion superior to that of others ; and with the same firmness of mind wherewith you have borne all past calamities you will also bear this last and severest stroke. I earnestly beseech Almighty God who has sent this severest trial to support your Excellency under it, and give you comforts answerable to your afflictions. The occasion of my writing at so unfit a season is that with the notice of my Lord's death, my Lord Chamberlain sends to me that your grandson should immediately come to London. I have written back to his lordship that within the compass of fourteen days an answer may be expected from Ireland, which I conceive, considering the retirement which is decent in the present occasion, will be as soon as it can be needful for my young Lord to appear in London. And therefore I have begged of him that I may be permitted to receive your Excellency's directions and commands.

SAME to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1680. July 31.—I know not with what words to bespeak you in the present amazing calamity. It has pleased Almighty God to take from you the light of your eyes, and comfort of your life, your most worthy son, and in that stroke made whole nations mourners. With you the wound is so deep that it could not be borne but by a courage and virtue as great as the occasion, and only the mother of the Earl of Ossory can be able to support the Earl of Ossory's loss. Most honoured Madam, this is the season when you are to call together all the aids of reason and religion. Your best, your dearest, your most worthy son is taken from you ; but he is taken by a gracious God, is taken from the miseries of a vile sinful world, and received to the rewards and joys of heaven. He is now at ease, free from the languishments of sickness and scorplings of his fever, is above the malice and designs of naughty men, and secure from the temptations of the world, the devil and the flesh, and could you now be so cruel to wish him now again engaged in all the miseries of life, and yourself to be put in the possibility of having all your griefs renewed again upon you ? No, madam : Almighty God knows what was best for your most worthy son, and he has done it. From the prospect of what is taken from you it will become you to divert on what is left behind. Whatever comforts are removed will, I hope, be supplied in my Lord James unto you ; and no kindness can be so great unto the father as that which you desire unto the son. My Lord Arlington has now written to me that my Lord should come to town. I do not understand the expedience of the counsel, and know that place has not been thought by your Grace to be the best for my Lord's abode. I have represented to my Lord Arlington my apprehensions that it cannot be of use to my lord to be now in town, where it will be indecent

for him to appear at present, and that within the compass of a fortnight we may expect my Lord Duke's and your Grace's direction, without which I must be very unwilling to make any step in the disposal of my Lord who was entrusted to me. Whether my Lord Chamberlain will over-rate me herein I know not, but hope he will be content to respite things till your pleasure can be known. I have only to add my heartiest prayers to Almighty God that as he has laid the severest affliction on you, so he would give patience and strength to support it.

DUKE OF YORK to ORMOND.

1680, July 31, Windsor.—I am sure you will easily believe me when I tell you that nobody is more sensibly troubled than I at the death of the Lord Ossory. It is not only a very great loss for you and all his family, but to the King and indeed the whole nation, and more particularly to me to whom he was so true a friend. I could say much more upon this subject, and pray to God to give you patience to bear this as a good Christian, and be assured you shall always find me a true friend to you and yours, which I am sure you deserve from all our family.

JAMES.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, July 31. Whitehall.—It is with a most unfeigned deep sadness that I humbly take leave to break in upon your Grace with these few condoling lines for my most honoured Lord the Earl of Ossory. He was a person that no eulogy of mine is able to reach. He was the glory of the King's subjects. This appeared eminently by the love he had won himself at home, and by the respect he met with abroad. And which is yet more than all this he was a hero, I may say, in Christianity eminent, and (as great men cannot but be) an honour to the communion he was of. God Almighty had disposed him excellently for this change. The Dean of Bangor, who assisted him all along, told it me just now with tears in his eyes. My lord, when the King hath asked him of your Grace, you have not grudged to part with him, though to the most certain dangers. We have therefore no reason to doubt but that you do resign yourself now that Almighty God hath taken him to Himself, and that you do bow to and adore that Providence, which that it may multiply comforts and blessings upon your Grace and all your illustrious family is my most hearty poor prayer.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, July 31. Arlington House.—My last gave your Excellency some hopes of my lord your son's recovery, and the next day after those hopes were strengthened by the concurrent opinion of all the physicians, but we at length were undeceived on Friday. At a quarter past seven in the

evening it pleased God to take him from us, to whose will we resign ourselves, as I hope your Excellency will do, and in so extraordinary occasion fortify your Christianity with your prudence and experience of the vanity of this world, which we take more pains than we ought to render pleasant and acceptable to us, and value ourselves upon possessions which in a moment we may lose.

His disease was so strong in his head (being a high malignant fever) that he had but few intervals free from the delirium that troubled him more or less all his sickness, which Dr. ffoide* with much care and prudence made use of for the composing his mind and to render him capable of receiving and doing other acts of a good Christian. In the middle of his sickness he spoke of making a will, but finding him so ill I diverted him from it in the presence of some of his servants by telling him the circumstances in which he was did not make that so necessary for him as another man : for, said I, my lord, I think you have nothing of that nature to do but to recommend your wife and children to your father, and to him likewise the payment of your debts and gratification of your servants, and this, if you choose, I will do in your name ; which he seemed very well to accept of, and never more mentioned it ; and I the rather humoured this way with him, because in the times he hath heretofore put himself into any extraordinary actions at sea or land he used to leave a short paper to me which contained the same things in effect, and particularly beseeching your Excellency to increase his wife's jointure, which I knew not whether she were ever acquainted with but now ; and then too I ever told him the afore-mentioned points would be over secured by your Excellency's generosity.

I have caused his body to be prepared to be laid into a vault in Westminster Abbey, that it may be in a condition of being buried hereafter here or carried to Sussex or Kilkenny as your Excellency shall think fit to direct. What I have further ordered concerning his affairs you will find in a memorandum I have put into Mr. Mulys's hands to receive your orders thereupon. In the meantime I have presumed to send to the Bishop to let my Lord James come hither to show him to the world whilst they are so in love with his father's memory and lament to such an excess the loss of him that it would look like flattery if I should tell your Excellency but half the truth herein. I cannot end this letter without adding that I never saw a better set of orderly, affectionate and deserving servants, who have sufficiently shown it in his sickness, each of which I have promised to recommend to your Excellency as any occasion offers for their preferment and advantage.

And thus I will dismiss your Excellency for the present, and myself too from this displeasing theme, reserving myself to compliment my Lady Duchess and Lady of Ossory upon it

* The Bishop of St. Asaph.

(as my wife does also) until we have better recollected ourselves upon a matter of so hard a digestion, and in the meantime only offering myself to obey all the commands your Excellency shall be pleased to lay upon me in this or any other occasion. The bearer is a very ancient faithful servant, St. Paul, who in pure obedience submits himself to be the bearer of this unhappy news.

RICHARD MULYS to [CAPT. GEORGE MATHEW.]

1680, July 31.—This afternoon your letter of 25 was received an hour before that I sent by Mr. St. Paul, who goes express to his Grace, a further account of my lord's sickness to the time he expired. I presume St. Paul and this letter may arrive together; to him I refer you for further account of all things, it being too sad a strain for me at this time, my heart being deeply wounded for the loss of the very best and bravest man in the world. All your enclosed letters are according as you directed. I will observe his Grace's commands touching my Lady Delvin, and obey him in all things as my Prince. It is many things that cumber me at this time, wherefore I must be in the comptroller's debt till the next post.

RICHARD MULYS to HENRY GASCOIGNE.

1680, July 31. Sat. 3 a'clock.—On Wednesday night last my Lord's condition altered so much for the better that we all had hopes of him. But in the night when the burning fit came upon him he raved much of Tangier, posting his men, attacking, retrenching and defending, then sighing heavily as in despair, more bewailing the loss of his people's lives than his own; on Thursday he grew very bad, the Sacrament was administered to him, in taking whereof he seemed very sensible. That night he fell speechless about 5 o'clock, although he had a medicine in his body the good effects whereof the physicians did expect in twenty-four hours. And that was the principal reason why they would not admit a quack who tendered himself with a powder, and if the physicians would give leave he undertook to do wonders. But he was an idle man. He lay gasping till about a quarter after 7: at which time he expired. This morning the body was opened, and enclosed you have an account how the physicians found it. The body is to be embalmed and laid in a leaden coffin in some vault in Westminster Abbey until his Grace's pleasure be known. My young Lord Ossory I sent an express for last night by my Lord Chamberlain's orders.

PHYSICIANS' ACCOUNT OF LORD OSSORY'S ILLNESS, AND POST MORTEM EXAMINATION.

1680, July 31.—The Right Hon. the Earl of Ossory being seized of a fever with a latent malignity which did not appear

for six or seven days, did on the ninth day fall into a fainting fit, after which time he continued phrenetical with many other malignant symptoms. He died on the thirteenth day. His body being opened, the brain was found very full of blood and water, insomuch that the white part of it was discoloured; his lungs was very black upon the settling of the blood, but they and all the entrails were sound. The stomach and guts were puffed very much with wind, which occasioned the swelling of his belly some days before he died.

THO. WITHERLEY, FERD. MENDAS, WALTER NEEDHAM,
EDW. WARNER, RICH. LOWER.

EARL OF RANELAGH'S APPEAL TO COMMISSIONERS OF
FARMERS' ACCOUNTS,

1680, July 31,—We have perused the general account of your undertaking as drawn up and engrossed by the auditor, which consists of two parts. In the first part we find ourselves charged with six thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, payable to the Earl of Arlington, whereas we humbly conceive we were not obliged by our covenants to pay his lordship any more than what remained unpaid to him of his grant of ten thousand pounds, which then was but five thousand pounds and no more. So that we look upon ourselves as charged with one thousand two hundred and fifty pounds more than we ought to be, and therefore in this particular we do with great submission to your lordships desire the judgment of the law upon our covenant in a legal way. As to the rest of the charge in the first part we make no exceptions, nor to the discharge of it.

In the second part we find ourselves charged with ten thousand pounds as due to His Majesty, he having paid that sum to his Grace the Duke of Ormond, which your lordships are pleased to say we ought to have paid. To this sum we humbly conceive we are no ways liable, it being not so much as mentioned among the sums by us undertaken, and we cannot find any clause in our contract which makes us liable to be charged by inferences or constructions, and therefore in this particular we do with great submission appeal to the law, being advised that your lordships as commissioners of our accounts are judges of our payments and of the vouchers relating thereunto, but not of our covenants, which, if disputable, are to have a legal determination, which therefore we humbly desire they may have, and in the meantime we do with much respect to your lordships declare that we can by no means submit to or allow of this charge.

We also find ourselves charged with the sum of twelve thousand nine hundred and three pounds one shilling, so much having been allowed us in the several accounts of our undertaking passed by the Earl of Essex and the former Commissioners of our accounts for the salaries paid by the late Farmers to

the then Commissioners for government and management of His Majesty's revenue. To this charge we can by no means submit, an allowance for those salaries having been so often and so solemnly adjudged to us both in England and Ireland, and that under some of your lordships' hands; and besides we are advised that no allowance granted us by the former Commission of our accounts (which had a particular clause empowering the Commissioners to make us allowances) can properly be questioned much less disallowed by the present Commission, in which we can find no power granted either to make us new allowances or to surcharge us with allowances formerly made us, and therefore with great respect and submission to your lordships we do in this particular humbly appeal to His Majesty's justice, and again declare we can by no ways submit to this charge.

We also find ourselves charged with ten thousand one hundred and twenty-two pounds ninepence halfpenny for assignments yet unpaid, and with seven thousand seven hundred and seventeen pounds three shillings eleven pence for deductions made in the treasury. Whether these sums be rightly computed we do not now examine. But we assure your lordships that now that the process hath liberty to go abroad we will take a particular care to see them paid and will not desire a discharge as to our undertaking till they are satisfied. Having said this we must beg your lordships' leave to say further that we humbly conceive those two sums ought not to be brought into the charge of this second part of our accounts, they being not money we owe His Majesty but our private debt, for which if not paid the subject hath his action against us and very good security to answer his demands; therefore with great respect to your lordships we do not submit to have these charged in this account.

We also find ourselves charged with four thousand five hundred seventy-one pounds five shillings and one penny to make good compositions alleged to be made by some employed by us, to which we cannot submit. For whether we have broken our covenant in that particular and what penalty we are liable to upon such breach, are questions as we humbly conceive to be determined at law, and thither with respect to your lordships we humbly appeal, only observing that the article which chargeth us with this sum doth not take any notice that the officers of the regiment besides the money paid to them had upon their own desires signified under their hands exchequer acquittances given them for as many debts of record due to us as completed their full pay.

From the foregoing exceptions your lordships will please to observe that we humbly conceive ourselves charged with forty-six thousand five hundred sixty-three pounds ten shillings eleven pence more than we ought to be. But what we have now to offer to your lordships is an exception of another kind, and which accountants seldom make, for it will

complain to your Lordships that we are not charged with twenty-four thousand pounds, which His Majesty was pleased to furnish us with by way of imprest, of which no notice is taken by your lordships but by way of memorandum after the closing of the account. Whereas we humbly conceive and are advised that the same ought to have continued as a long time it did, part of the charge of our account, both because the King's letter which directs the impresting of that sum to us declares that it was for the use of our undertaking (viz.) to enable us to clear December pay, 1675, to which it was accordingly applied as by our accounts for that quarter signed by your lordships doth appear, and because the condition of the bond which we entered into before the receiving of that sum wholly relates to such just demands as should appear to arise to us from our contract.

As to the discharge of this second part of our account we must likewise beg your lordships leave to except to it. What we have to say thereupon is that we humbly conceive and are advised that all accountants have a right to apply their allowances to what part of their charge they please, that your lordships have thought fit within these few days not only to turn the twenty-four thousand pounds impressed to us out of the charge of our accounts when it was lodged for two years and more without having any objection made to it, and where we humbly conceive for the reasons mentioned in the preceding article it ought still to have continued. But your lordships have been pleased to refuse at the same time our humble and repeated desires for leave to withdraw out of our accounts before signed or closed as many allowances formerly granted to us as should amount to that sum, and your lordships have brought into our account against our will the allowances lately given us by my Lord Lieutenant and Council, by which means those allowances and demands which we always designed to apply to the satisfying of the condition of our said bond, and not only kept and brought into the account against our wills, but also notwithstanding the accountant's right of application are by your lordships applied without our consent to those imaginary charges to which we have herein before excepted, and therefore with great respect to your lordships we do enter our absolute dissent to all this proceeding humbly appealing herein to His Majesty's justice.

The foregoing exceptions are what we are at present able to make, having had so short a perusal of the account and these we do humbly offer to your lordships this 31st of July, 1680.

[Signed.]

RANELAGH.

JOHN STEPNEY.

Copia vera ex

p. Ri. Chapell dept. Audr.

HENRY GASCOIGNE to ORMOND.

1680, July 31. Dublin.—I have inquired, and find the post office fixt with the Farmers, with whom I have no friend at present, nor can I learn their names as yet whereby to make friendship in the office. I have waited on my Lord Primate on this matter, who has not directed me being, I conceive, at as great a loss, but thinks by the time he returns I may find out some means for continuing the discovery, tho' it be not advisable to meddle with it yet for 2 or 3 posts : if it be now urged, perhaps the person to be made acquainted with it may be discharged, or rather so unacquainted with the method that he may find himself necessitated to make use of those formerly employed ; if he holds it, my Lord P. thinks he it too much a creature of Sir James Shaen to be true to your Grace. However I have found by them—the Farmers—that the packet when it comes in is to be kept till I shall have discharged it, within an hour : I can on this power only receive your Grace's, and send them to you, for if I should pretend to take up any other, an officer (whom I dare not trust) of theirs will be by, and tho' I should cull out one or more, the craft will be how to get that when made use of into it again ; and without such help as I had before, or the like of it, I shall not be able to go on with it ; and finding that neither my Lord Primate or my Lord Lanesborough can put me on a better or securer project or design for it, I humbly acquaint you with what I have done, and wait your Grace's further commands. I am by directions from my Lord of Longford preparing a cypher betwixt his lordship and your Grace.

I have presumed to send Will Somers to Kilkenny to attend your Grace on any occasion you may have in my behalf while I am here.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, August 2. Enfield Chase.—I never had so little satisfaction in performing any duty I owed your Grace as I have in this of condoling with you for the death of my dear Lord of Ossory. When I consider by how many infinite circumstances your Grace hath lost more in him than I by my own disturbance, I cannot but guess how great a disquiet this sad accident must bring to you and his highest relations. To tell you how much he is generally lamented here were but to mind you the more of the value of what you have lost, and consequently in no way a diminution to your sorrow ; but thus much I must say. It is a very strange thing in so very bad an age to see so good a man lamented by so many of all sorts.

The only way of comfort I can present to you is to have recourse to your own great experience of the uncertainty of all worldly things, and consult your own virtue and practice how they have been and are to be borne. I pray God this be not a praeludium to greater and more universal tragedies,

and that the Earl of Ossory appear not to have been taken away from such evil days as no man could wish a friend to live in. I beseech God to recompense this loss to your Grace in some eminent marks of his favour and protection to yourself and family, and all that are left of that worthy Lord. I beseech the presenting of my humble services and sorrow to my Lady Duchess and to the afflicted widow, whose sorrow will require the utmost courage of your Grace to comfort. I pray God bless you and all yours to whom none is more entirely devoted than, etc.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1680, August 2. Dublin.—I am extremely ashamed to find among my papers a letter of yours of an ancient date unanswered. It is that wherein you mention a house in your neighbourhood that was to be had, and proposed my son Ossory's seeing it; at the same time came such alarms and so very unsuitable commands to me, that for some days I laid aside all thoughts but those of applying myself to perform my duty and prepare for another kind of life than that I had figured to myself and is still in my wish more than in my hope. The heat of the alarms have not since abated, but seem to me to be come to such a height as it is not possible they can long stay at, and our condition looks to me much like that I was once in near Havre de Grace: there was not water enough to let the vessel I was in into the harbour, and the storm was too fierce to let her live without. God give the same issue to the difficulties we labour under. Just now letters of the 24th bring me notice of my son Ossory's sickness, so that I must ask you leave to refer you to my Lord Longford for all things relating to this place.

LORD CAVENDISH to the DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1680, August 3.—I had always so high an esteem and value for my Lord your son, that my affliction can hardly yield to any but that of your Grace and my Lord Duke, and therefore if anything could be said to moderate your grief upon so sad an occasion, I were very unfit to offer it. Only I presume as an eye-witness to acquaint you that never any loss had more sharers in it, nor was more universally lamented, and I should think the more immediately your Grace is concerned in it the more comfort you ought to receive from the great character my Lord has left behind him. I am sure whatever can contribute to your Grace's supporting so great a loss is wished by none more than Madam, etc.

SAME to ORMOND.

1680, August 3.—If anything could be said to moderate your Grace's grief upon so just an occasion, I should not pretend to offer it, but only presume to observe that if

afflictions can be lessened by the sharers in them, your Grace's may, for never any loss was so generally lamented. The sense I have of it in my own particular is not to be expressed, having ever had the highest value and respect imaginable for my Lord your son, and therefore hope your Grace will pardon me if among a crowd of others I presume to assure you of the unspeakable concern of, etc.

LADY CAVENDISH to ORMOND.

1680, August 3. Knowsley.—Though I have upon this sad occasion a very sensible trouble of my own, I must confess it is no small addition to it the affliction it must be to your Lordship. I am so unhappy as not to be able to wait upon you now, though my desires for it is very great. I have sent this messenger to bring me an account of your health and my mother's, for which my prayers are never failing. I shall by all the actions of my life desire and endeavour to express as I ought to your Lordship the most affectionate duty imaginable.

SAME to DUCHESS OF ORMOND.

1680, August 3. Knowsley.—My great sense not only in my own loss but the just grief and affliction it is to your Ladyship and my father is not easy for me to express. There is no consideration in the loss of so kind a brother but is very afflicting, though what I suffer upon your Ladyship's account I think is more to me: it would have been a great satisfaction to me if I could have waited upon you now, but it was impossible for me. I shall with much impatience expect the return of this bearer to have an account of your Ladyship's health and my father's, there being nothing of that concern to me, and for the long continuance of which my prayers shall be constant.

RICHARD MULYS to [HENRY GASCOIGNE.]

1680, August 3.—On Sunday morning about 1 or 2 we deposited my Lord's body in a vault in Westminster Abbey until his Grace's further pleasure be known. Pray deliver the enclosed to my Lord Duke. I expect my Lord James here this week; by my Lord Chamberlain's directions tomorrow I send a coach and six horses and mournings for him.

There is one Mr. Lauze who served my Lord as Gentleman of the Horse, and for whom his Lordship had a kindness; his care of my Lord in time of his sickness and his other merits hath disposed my Lord Chamberlain to recommend him to his Grace's favour for some military employment, being fitly qualified that way. And his Lordship desires you to move his Grace in it. Somebody hath told Mr. Lauze that a cornet's place is void in my Lord's troop.

SIR HANS HAMILTON to ORMOND.

1680, August 3.—So soon as I came home I sent for three or four of the Presbyterian Ministers who, I was confident, would deal freely with me in what I should say to them, and after some short discourse of the affairs of the Hill meetings in Scotland and of the influence that wild humour might have amongst the Presbyterians in this kingdom, and of the evil consequences it might be of to the Presbyterians here if it received the least countenance amongst any of that persuasion, they very freely and seriously protested that nothing was more abominable to them than the wicked and damnable principles those impious rabbles held, as being in the highest degree opposite to the laws of God and Nature. They also told me that they and the rest in this country had in their several congregations forewarned their hearers of the wickedness of those Hill-meeters and their principles, and that they would make it a great part of their business to prevent the people's being deluded by such wicked insinuations.

They also told me that they feared themselves to lie under the jealousies of the Government as persons not loyally principled to His Majesty and his laws, which they apprehend gives ground to believe several things represented to the Government against them—though mere mistakes or misinformations. And therefore they thought it might be convenient for them, four (being acquainted with the Lord Granard, and he now in England) to write a letter to his Lordship declaring their abhorrence of the transactions of the Hill-meeters, and of their rebellious principles, and that his lordship, if he shall think fit, may give His Majesty assurance of their sincere loyalty, which latter they have since writ to him, a copy whereof being sent to me, I have sent to your Grace by the bearer. They likewise told me and have so hinted in that letter that (if it will be approved of) they will in some short time (as soon as they can conveniently meet with others of their brethren) give a more full and ample testimony of their loyalty by an humble address to His Majesty, which they resolve to present to your Grace and (if by you approved of) beg your Grace's favour in transmitting it to His Majesty. To this I gave no other answer but that I would acquaint your Grace with it: and would let some of them know your Grace's pleasure in it. The bearer will acquaint your Grace what we hear more of Cameron's party than what I sent your Grace by my letter to Mr. Secretary Ellis. I do find that not above four Presbyterian Ministers went out of the counties of Down and Antrim to Scotland; how many went from Derry I know not.

SIR THOMAS WHARTON to ORMOND.

1680, August 6. Edlington.—I scarcely remember that ever I writ to your Grace in trouble before, nor should I now if

I did not more consider the public loss that the King and these kingdoms and myself in particular have had by the late death of your excellent son than anything as to himself by it ; for I verily believe by what I have heard myself that never any person died more generally regretted than that eminent man has done, and I can freely say that the death of my only grandson (not many weeks since) that I loved well, and had reason to do it, being the hopefulest youth of his age that ever I yet saw, went not nearer to me than this has done. But God's declared will must be submitted to and should be with cheerfulness, and as to this of my poor Lord Ossory's being taken away in the height of unblemished honour and esteem by all great and worthy persons (probably in these parts of the world) it may be as to himself and your Grace in the greatness of his memory in after story in ages a considerable blessing and advantage. For what might have been the success of that employment designed him nobody knows, and I think those that loved and honoured him most suspected and feared, considering all things in this juncture of time and wants, and then if anything had happened contrary to wishes and interest, probably the fault would have been laid upon the Commander-in-Chief though never so unreasonable and unjust. Now this is all at an end, and he is come without any gainsaying to a glorious period. I wish and heartily pray that neither your Grace's nor my Lady Duchess's natural affections may anyways prejudice your healths, but that you may both live cheerfully to very great old ages for more public good.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 6. Dublin.—When I received the honor of your Grace's by Captain Richbell, I immediately sent to my Lord Ranelagh to desire his assistance upon the matter of those two letters which your Grace sent me, for I much doubted that he would be gone to sea. My letter came to him very seasonably, for he told me since that had not my letter come as it did he had certainly gone to sea that night. We had yesterday and this day a meeting at the Council table, and the Farmers being sent for declined at present their insisting upon any other particular in those letters of the King and of the Lords Commissioners of the Revenue than that of their interest which hath been kept from them above those two years. Upon debate thereof we held it reasonable that they should be allowed to draw out their interest (which is 500*l. per mensem*) for the time to come, but we could not be of the opinion that they should draw out in moneys that which is already past, it being a considerable sum, and not to be spared until such time as their dues were satisfied according to their contract, there being a great sum in arrear upon them by Sir John Champante's computations, and the rather because they had deducted by license of the Lord Lieutenant and Council 36,000*l. per annum*.

which much exceeded their interest and was not included in their contract. They were not satisfied therewith, and we could not see how it could be agreeable to our own security to allow them more. Thus much is signified to your Grace by a joint letter from the Lords of the Committee by to-morrow's post, upon the return whereof from your Grace Mr. Solicitor is to prepare a full account for your Grace, which your Grace may make use of as far as you shall think in the return to the Lords Commissioners of the Revenue. This I write in discharge of what your Grace was pleased to command me in that particular. The packet is not yet come in, and I could almost wish that it would never come. I am to-morrow for Blessington, where I shall attend your Grace's commands. Upon Tuesday I am to be at Dublin to conclude our transmission of my Lord Ranelagh's accounts.

SAME to SAME.

1680, August 7. Blessington.—This evening brought hither the dismal certainty of my Lord of Ossory's death. Did I not believe the steadiness of your Grace's mind to be above all the incidents of this world, I should much fear that the loss of that most noble person might shake you to some distrust of that Providence which hath ever governed you through the great and various difficulties of all your life. But your Grace knows very well that whatever conjectures we make to ourselves upon outward affairs, and whatever aggravations we may create to our own infelicities by the review of circumstances, they are all fallible and deceptive. There is a God above which rules the world and who disposeth all things according to the pleasure of His own will, and for the advantage of those that dare rely upon Him; and especially of such who place their confidence in Him when their own imaginations cannot afford them the least prospect of any comfort. The good old patriarch when he lost (as he supposed) the son of his love by the fury of wild beasts, did not in the least foresee that this afflicting accident could in any way conduce to the preservation of himself or to the glory of his Maker, but your Grace knows what a great work God brought to pass by that sad and improbable medium. God hath His own secret ways in His proceedings, which are not visible to us, nor is He accountable to us for what He doth. He brought light out of darkness, good out of evil, and it is the top honour and glory of a Christian that he dares trust himself with God even at that time when He seems most bitterly his enemy. Pardon me, my Lord, that I presume to write thus to your Grace, who have ever showed yourself unto the world most eminently upon such occasions, to the great honour of that religion you profess, and have frequently withstood the shock of many desperate attempts against you, even when the life and fortune of yourself and of all yours have been at the stake. I cannot therefore be so vain as to think that your Grace, who have so great

and so good a spirit within yourself, can receive any vigour or support from anything that I can write upon this subject. It is only to put your Grace in remembrance of yourself to stir up those noble fires within you which this mighty affliction might labour to suppress or smother. The best man in the world is but a man still, while he is on this side of Heaven. Besides, my Lord, I am so great and so particular a sharer in the loss of that glorious person, that I am easily excusable while I write that to your Grace which I must endeavour to apply unto myself. He was my great patron and defender, the worthiest person and the best friend in the world; he was the terror of foreign nations and the glory of his own; he was indeed more than I dare speak or think upon this occasion, lest I wholly disappoint my present business and raise that tempest which I labour to allay.

Your Grace, I hope, will pardon me while I promise myself your leave to attend my Lady Duchess and my Lady Ossory upon this sad occasion. Really (my Lord) my heart bleeds within me when I consider their condition. The great God of Heaven and earth, that God which was never wanting to you in all your extremities, stand by you now and support you and yours under this heavy weight of pressing difficulties.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, August 7. Highnam.—From my very soul I condole with your Grace your irreparable loss—irreparable not only to your Grace but also to the King and kingdom, as well as myself. For no prince ever had a faithfuller servant or kingdom a braver champion, or so much an inferior so condescending a friend. I have of late signally tasted of his obligations, the relish whereof is still so fresh in my palate as to double my sense in this common calamity. But I will no longer harp on this harsh and unpleasant string, but for diversion's sake humbly offer to your Grace's consideration what follows, humbly craving as speedy a result as conveniently may be. Thus stands the state of the case. My Lord Poulett being dead hath left his uncle Fra. Poulett (who your Grace saw at Wells when you dined with that Bishop), Sir Jo. Sydenham, Sir Tho. Putt, Sir Tho. Carew, Mr. Strode and myself, his six executors and trustees of his whole estate; he hath also left two daughters by Col. Popham's daughter and a son and two daughters by this dowager (my Lord Pembroke's sister, and the whole estate (being within 200 of 5,000*l.* per an. and whereof 600*l.* per annum is old rent) thus settled; on his eldest daughter by his first wife, 10,000*l.*; on her sister, 6,000*l.*; and on the other two sisters, 4,000*l.* each; on his son his whole estate liable to these incumbrances, his son so marvellous infirm of the King's evil that his life is under great suspicion (unless his present ague helps to lengthen it); if he dies his own two sisters will but have their 4,000*l.* made up 6,000*l.*, the whole estate is to be divided between the two elder sisters (those

by Col. Popham's daughter), and the eldest of the two (much the healthier, much the handsomer, and much the more eligible) is to have besides her equal dividend of the rest of the estate, the house and furniture, demesne and manor, all the park at Henton, really worth 30,000*l.*, added to her share, and if her sister dies, the whole. Now if your Grace can approve of the certainty of 10,000*l.* with these contingencies, my little Lord Ossory hath the refusal of her. About other proposals the trustees will be divided; in this we all centre: and till I have your Grace's answer we have put an embargo on our young lady, who, I assure you, is a most deserving young woman, improved by their Henton breeding to a miracle. She is very comely, very well shaped, very ingenious, and above all of a most excellent disposition. I shall limit myself to this scantling of account till I receive further encouragement from your Grace to enlarge on this subject. Whether or no your Grace conceives this worthy your consideration, let it obtain both your Grace's answer to and pardon for him that would more readily engage in your Grace's service than in any subjects living. Be pleased to let your Grace's commands to me be directed to be left with Mr. Jackson, my Lord Devonshire's servant at Newport House, who will certainly convey them to me wherever I am.

RICHARD MULYS to HENRY GASCOIGNE.

1680, August 7.—On Wednesday last I received yours of 29th of the last month, which takes notice of your receiving mine that day of 24th with the account of my Lord's sickness; how justly my fears were then grounded time hath since shown; and I cannot yet get off the resentment which makes a deeper impression in me than in the ordinary course of the world such relations as master and servant does admit of; but to say truth I had a love for his person even to an excess; and my happiness was wrapt up in his, which I can say without vanity (and have a cloud of witnesses to make it appear) that all the actions of my life since I had that honour to be concerned in his affairs hath been one continual instance thereof.

In my Lord Arlington's family one of the servants belonging to his Lordship's chamber (Mr. Clarke), an ingenious young man, and very affectionate in time of my Lord's sickness, diligent and handy about him, and frequently in watching, since his Lordship's decease the young man sickened of a fever and was delirious not unlike to my Lord; yesterday they gave him the Sacrament, and in the night he departed this life, which fills people with discourse as if his Lordship's disease were contagious. I bless God the rest of us that were constantly about his person night and day found no other ill than what an extreme grief for him hath occasioned.

I just now received your letter of 1st August—your several despatches are delivered, as is that also from Sir Cha. Fielding.

My young Lord is this evening arrived here in good health, and for corpulence and stature is far beyond what I did expect. As he passed by Stanhope House in a hired mourning coach and six horses, the coach happened to overturn in the dirt and break, but I thank God without any further mischief. My Lord Chamberlain told me that he would be in town from Windsor to-morrow or on Monday to accompany my young Lord to Windsor. Until he arrives we have little to do here, but to entertain my young Lord with chat and keep him out of company. I hope his Grace will suddenly give some directions about him.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, August 7. Dublin.—I have, in obedience to your Grace's commands, as well as my memory would serve me, put down in the enclosed paper the discourse your Grace desired me to make to my Lord Arlington, and I think I have come pretty near the matter. If your Grace please to add anything to it or to omit any part of it, your Grace's commands may overtake me by the next packet at my arrival in London. If your Grace's letter for me be directed to Mr. Notts, at the Queen's Arms, in the Pell Mell, stationer. I carry a copy of it with me, so that your Grace if you find no cause for alteration need not return the enclosed to me. My Lord Ranelagh went to sea the last night, and though I go on board this night I doubt not but to be at London before him. Captain Richbell and the Farmers are not satisfied with the resolution the Council have taken upon His Majesty's and the Lord Commissioners of the Treasury's letter in their favour. They think themselves under shackles till they are rid of Mr. Ryder, which they are not able to effect, unless your Grace will permit them to have their arrears of their interest money, which will amount to above 13,000*l*. And how such a sum can be spared in the present exigencies of His Majesty's Revenue, I cannot foresee. I find Captain Richbell intends to wait upon your Grace at Kilkenny, and hopes by laying before your Grace a clear state of their accounts with His Majesty to prevail with your Grace to condescend in easing him and his partners in this particular.

COUNTESS OF LONGFORD to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, August 10. Dublin.—I have sent Bland on purpose to enquire after my Lady Duchess and my sister Ossory's health. I should have given my Lady Duchess the trouble of a scroll from me, but my great concern for my brother will not permit me to write on so melancholy a subject. The omission thereof I hope you will excuse to her Grace. I am extremely concerned that La Her: is fallen ill of so troublesome a distemper, though it shall not in the least hinder me from waiting on my Lady Duchess if it might be convenient, being not at all afraid of that disease, and shall humbly beg your Lordship's advice both

as to going and the time when it might be most proper. My Lord set sail for England on Saturday night and landed on Sunday noon at Holyhead.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, August 10. London.—This day the Lords of the Committee for the affairs of Ireland met and took into consideration several of the Bills transmitted hither from under the great seal of Ireland. That of annexing the Phoenix Park to the Crown is agreed to with some amendments, viz.: the word "Imperial" before "Crown" is left out, and the last proviso is altered, all grants of His Majesty being declared to be void for any part of the said park since the 29th of May, 1660.

The Bill for enabling Archbishops, Bishops, etc., to let leases for three lives is totally rejected.

The Bill for imposition upon coals is referred to Mr. Solicitor General to consider whether it is convenient that goods of English growth should have an imposition laid upon them when imported into Ireland, as likewise to add a clause for the better accounting for the said moneys in case the purport of the Act is agreed to.

The Bill for hindering Papists to sit in either House of Parliament is referred to Mr. Solicitor General to make agree with the Act made in the Parliament 30th of His Majesty.

All the Bills of the Revenue are referred to Mr. Solicitor General to make report to the Board of his opinion thereupon. Mr. Attorney General being at present out of town was the occasion of these references to Mr. Solicitor.

A letter from your Grace and the Council of Ireland with the enclosed examinations of Nathaniel Johnson was likewise read and remitted to his Grace the Duke of Lauderdale to inquire farther into the matters contained therein. As likewise another letter dated the 28th July, concerning the trial of the Earl of Tyrone, but the examinations enclosed being very long, were ordered to be read the next Council day. Another letter from your Grace and Council concerning Mr. Alderman Bence was likewise read and referred to the Lords of the Treasury, who are to advise with the King's Counsel learned in the law of the best means to comply with the contents of the said letter.

SIR JAMES BUTLER to ORMOND.

1680, August 10. London.—Having been at Windsor this morning to wait on the King about some matters relating to the forests, etc., whereof I am Deputy Justice, His Majesty (after that affair was over) asked me some things concerning my Lord James's growth, etc., which, when I had answered, His Majesty said he did not know that he could have a greater loss than the death of his father. I told His Majesty it was reported abroad in the town that he intended speedily to remove your Grace from that Government. His Majesty answered

that he had heard of this rumour from others before, but that it was as false as anything in the world and that they were his enemies that reported it, that your Grace should not be removed by him till God removed you, and wished with all his heart that you had been 20 years younger, that no family ever served the Crown better, and that the worst your enemies could say was that you had had a great store of money since His Majesty's restoration. But His Majesty said that he knew you lost more and disbursed for his father and himself than you got. I replied what your Grace had from His Majesty's bounty you spent in his service and put none of it to use; he answered he knew you were no banker. Upon my acquainting the Duke with the same, he said none but a madman would imagine such a thing. This I thought was fit for me to acquaint your Grace with.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, August 11. Arlington House.—I have not made haste to add anything to the melancholy letter I sent your Grace by St. Paul. What passed betwixt His Majesty and myself when I gave him your Grace's letter (inclosed in one to your son) stands in the enclosed paper in cipher, wherein I have made use of Mr. Ellis's hand. Last night I came hither and found my Lord James here according to my desire to the Bishop of Oxford. To-morrow early I carry him to Windsor to kiss the King and Queen's hands, and with a purpose to keep him by me until I have your Grace's orders, which, I confess, I wish may be to put him into Monsieur Faubert's Academy here in London rather than to send him back to Oxford, where he makes but little progress in his books, being little addicted to it, and goes rather backwards in his manners according to the education of the colleges; in the mean he is accompanied with Monsieur Drelincourt to teach him within doors, and one Monsieur Lauze to follow him abroad—a good and discreet man who was his father's gentleman of the horse and hath desired me to recommend him to your Grace for some military employment in Ireland, he having served with credit in the French army as an officer, I think, of horse, and this is the only man we add to the equipage he had at Oxford. I expect your Grace's directions upon this, and what I sent by St. Paul, that I may apply myself to serve the best I can.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, August 13. Whitehall.—I durst not venture to give your Grace the trouble of a letter of mine at a time that you could not be but very much oppressed by the grief your great loss must have given—which was the occasion of my deferring for some days to let you know that no man is more sensible than I am of the misfortune you have, and the public, by my Lord of Ossory's death, who is most generally lamented by all men, and by none more than etc.

EARL OF FEVERSHAM to ORMOND.

1680, August 14. Windsor.—J'espère que vous me faites asses de justice pour estre persuadé de la sincere part que je preus a la perte que vous venes de faire, elle est trop generale et je puis dire trop particuliere pour moi pour n'en estre pas aussi touché qu'homme du monde, ayant perdu assurément, je puis dire, un des meilleurs amis que j'aye jamais eu, je ne vous importunerai pas plus longtemps sur un si triste subject, mais seulement pour vous supplier de me faire la grace de vouloir temoigner a madame la duchesse d'Ormond que si je ne me donne pas l'honneur de lui escrire sur une si malheureuse occasion que c'est par le respect que j'ay pour elle, et pour ne lui pas donner le chagrin de lire une lettre sur un tel subject quoi qu'assurement homme du monde ne participe plus sincerement a sa douleur que je ne fai, vous vouldes bien me pardonner la liberté que je preus, et me faire la justice de croire que j'ay trop d'obligations a toute vostre famille pour ne me pas interesser a tout ce qui la regarde et a vous mylord en particulier.*

SAME to ORMOND.

1680, August 14. Windsor.—Si je ne me suis point donné l'honneur de vous escrire plustost sur la perte que vous venes de faire, et permettes moi de vous dire que nous avons tous fait et moi en particulier, je vous supplie tres humblement de croire que je n'est point manque de respect, assurément my lord ni que je ny sois aussi sensible qu'homme du monde, car je serois le ingrat de tous les hommes si je ni prenois la part que je dois apres tant d'obligations que je vous ai mylord et a toute vostre famille lesquelles assurément je n'oublierai jamais et me tiendrois bien heureux si en ma vie je rencoutrois quelque occasion a vous pouvoir temoigner avec quelle sincerité et respect je suis et serai toute ma vie, etc.*

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 14. Sheen.—Though I am not of the first to condole with your Grace upon so sensible a loss as has lately befallen your family, yet I am sure your Grace will easily believe me one of those that take the truest part in it, as I shall ever do in whatever can arrive to you of good or of bad in the world. The true lenitives for such a wound must be found out and applied by your own piety and prudence and not expected from the compliments or reasonings of your friends, how good soever upon such an occasion. At least I will confess myself of all men the most unfit to make such attempts upon your Grace, having never been able to succeed in them upon myself after an incurable wound I received last year in the same kind and which I will hope I may live sometimes to forget but never to remember without the most sensible trouble and grief. And to say truth after the best offices I have

*The spelling of the original has been followed in this transcript.

performed to others upon such occasions, I find nothing of effect in any remedy but what may be extracted from the course of time which, like a natural opium, helps us to forget such pains as nothing else can allay.

I have been for nine or ten months past so much out of all thoughts of business and so engaged in little attendances of my health or journeys designed either for that or diversion, that I have not thought fit to give your Grace any trouble by my letters when I found they could be neither of use nor entertainment to you. But I have not failed to give my brother at times several notices that I thought concerned you in particular and might be necessary for you to know, and though my brother's modesty or tenderness of troubling your Grace may possibly have kept them from you, yet I do not know whether you are to thank him for it or no, and wish you could prevail with him to tell you the particulars that some have so much endeavoured to make use of to your Grace's prejudice, that so you may judge how to treat them, either by justifying yourself where there has been no occasion, or preventing any hereafter if there has, for no man can hope not to lie open in some part or other to a scrupulous or envious inquisition. I confess I was t'other day surprised when for the first time I attended the Irish Committee to find such a scroll of exceptions endorsed upon all the Acts lately sent over that I could not but say to one of the Council, who gave them me to read, that I could not judge of the exceptions because I had not read the Acts, but if they were justly or fairly made, I thought the only thing the King had to do upon them was to change the Lord Lieutenant and the whole Privy Council of Ireland for transmitting over a parcel of Acts that could deserve such an arraignment. Three or four of the least moment were read over that day, but I know not whether any progress has been made further in them, nor am I apt to believe all things will be concerted towards the sitting of a Parliament there so soon as it seems your Grace had thought necessary for the affairs or wants of that kingdom. I know not whether the matter be great, because I am inclined to believe that the next session of Parliament here is like to determine one way or other the fate not only of this kingdom but of all our neighbours, whose posture cannot continue another year without some great change in the measures of Christendom, unless we should be in a condition of falling into them with another sort of weight than we have been of late or are at this time. For my own part I have for a good while esteemed myself wholly incapable of either advising or serving His Majesty in his affairs at home, and for that end had asked his leave four months since to make a journey this autumn into the southern parts of France for my health. But His Majesty and the Ministers about him have thought it fitter for me to make such a southern journey in some capacity of serving the Crown upon the measures they have lately

taken (too lately I fear) than to travel like a young gentleman at my age ; and so have for three months past pressed me very earnestly to charge myself with an Extraordinary Embassage into Spain, which I consented to about a fortnight since, and is now public. I am neither tempted by the dignity of it, though esteemed the greatest heretofore of that kind, and now greater by the King's present resolution to have no other Ambassador abroad (though several persons of so much better quality than I) nor by the fortunes which others have made in that station. Those circumstances are balanced enough by the risk a man runs of being undone if payments fail from Court, and for such distempers this is a very sickly time. That which encourages me is the strong opinion His Majesty has that I am capable of doing him more service in that Court and in pursuit of his present alliances with them than any man else. And on the other side the desire I have rather to hear of at a distance than to see the distractions of my country so fatal to our neighbours and I fear in time to ourselves, when I have no hopes of being able to do anything towards their remedy. I give your Grace this account of myself rather to divert than to inform you, and because I might end it with the assurance that in whatever places or stations my humour or my fortune may lead me, your Grace will ever be sure to find in them a most faithful and obedient humble servant.

RICHARD MULYS to CAPT. GEORGE MATHEW.

1680, August 14.—Yesterday I received yours of 8th, and am sorry St. Paul was detained so long on this side by contrary winds ; tho' ill news God knows flies apace ; and I believe nothing in this world could have been more unwelcome to Kilkenny. My Lord Longford, I hear, is arrived to town this day and lodges in Suffolk Street.

Everybody's expectation is strong and their discourse positive as if the Parliament should sit in October next. In order thereunto several things are doing for making it a happy sessions, and talk is of eight or ten pardons that are taking out ; some are so confident as to say the Duke withdraws into Flanders, and others will have my Lord Duke Lauderdale and Chief Justice Scroggs to go for their health sake into France, Lord Sunderland as Lord Lieutenant for Ireland ; and a great many other disposals of persons and places are made in ordinary discourse, which I for my part pass by as idle talk.

On Wednesday last at Windsor their counsels changed as to the affairs of Tangier. And letters of the 10th of the last month from thence, which, I saw, speaks of Muly Hamett's being come thither from the K of Fez with proposals for a peace.

On Wednesday last my Lord James was received by the King at Windsor with great expressions of kindness, and 'tis

said the Queen and Duke dropt a tear at the sight of him. I wish his Lordship were with you in Ireland, being of humble opinion that no course in the world could be more proper for him at present nor do him so much good. I cannot yet hear how my noble Lord's places and honours are bestowed; that which I resent most is that I find not one of them, neither in possession nor reversion, is like to be conferred on my young Lord.

Enclosed you have the King's letter for my Lady Delvin. The charges thereof I have put to his Grace's account as you directed.

We are here at a loss not knowing whether my Lord's title of Earl of Ossory were by creation, and consequently we know not how to stile our young Lord.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680, August 14.—My Lady the Countess of Clancarty came to us at a time when we were under the confusion which your's and the nation's invaluable loss lately occasioned. However, I have endeavoured to take such care for the settlement of my young Lord as I hope has given her Honor satisfaction. And I shall make it my study that she may never take up other apprehensions concerning the disposal of her great treasure than those she has entertained; nor retract her belief of the effect which your Excellency's commands have and ever shall have with me. I should fear that this representation might appear now unseasonably rude did I not know that no personal calamity can make your Excellence forgetful of the concernments of your friends.

As to what relates to the affair of your most hopeful grandson, I have already taken the liberty to give your Excellence an account of what has passed, and hope your commands will speedily arrive and put an end to the present uncertainties of counsels, which by no means tends to my young Lord's advantage. I beseech Almighty God to give your Excellence support and comfort in this great affliction which He has laid upon you, and convert your temporal crosses to the advantages of eternity.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, August 14. London.—This annexed Report from the Committee of Intelligence being put into my hand to be read the last Council, I according to order delivered it to my Lord President; but His Majesty not being present, the reading it was deferred till the next Council day, being Wednesday, at which His Majesty's presence is expected. It coming so into my hands and not yet read at the Board, I most humbly beg your Grace to keep it in your breast for the present, but it being of so particular concern to your Grace and some other of your friends and servants, I thought myself obliged by that duty and service which I shall always with the

greatest sincerity pay to your Grace to give your Grace this account and therewith to send the annexed copy of the said report. I shall not presume to make any comment upon it being acquainted with my Lord Granard's instructions from your Grace, but shall endeavour to give your Grace an account of what further progress is made therein.

[Encloses a Report of the Committee of Intelligence, as follows :—]

In pursuance of your Majesty's commands we have spoken with the Lord Viscount Granard, who attended us at the Council Chamber the 5th instant, at which time the Earl Sunderland produced unto us two papers which the said Lord Granard said he had received from the Duke of Ormond, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and which we found contained a representation of the ill posture of affairs in that kingdom. The said Lord Granard did also tell us that there were great fears that in case of any invasion many discontented persons and particularly those who had lost and forfeited their estates would be ready to join with any foreign enemy ; that the army is in a very ill condition, two-thirds of the soldiers being, as he supposes, tenants and married persons who have small farms and other concerns. That there are upwards of 400 old and unserviceable soldiers in the army, and consequently not above two thousand effectual men fit for service. That there is no ammunition or stores in the kingdom. That the forts are all ruined and out of repair, and not one gun mounted, except at Kinsale, where a new fort is building. That it will require at least 100,000*l.* to repair the forts, mount the guns and provide stores, but that not above 40,000*l.* can be laid out in a year, it being to no purpose to provide stores till fit places be made to receive them.

And his Grace the Lord Lieutenant having in his abovesaid papers offered to your Majesty that in order to remedy these defects, at least some of them, a Parliament might be speedily called there, we do humbly represent to your Majesty that we have considered of this whole matter, and do offer it as our humble opinions, that in regard it is necessary in order to the sitting of a Parliament in Ireland that some bills be first transmitted back hither, that the said Bills be forthwith looked over and maturely considered of, till which be done we do not think ourselves enabled to give your Majesty our advice concerning calling a Parliament there ; but finding it also necessary that in the meantime all care may be taken to provide for the safety of the country and to remedy some of these defects complained of, we do farther offer to your Majesty that

1. Orders may be sent to the Lord Lieutenant frequently to remove all the troops and companies of the army from place to place, which we conceive will in a great measure prevent the abuse of putting tenants in the troops and companies, and remove those that are in.

2. That whereas we are given to understand that an hospital is building for old and unserviceable soldiers, and that one hundred are already provided for by having half pay, that the rest of the old and unserviceable men of the army should also be allowed half pay out of the deduction made for the hospital.

3. That to recruit the army in Ireland 1,000 men be forthwith raised in England and sent thither to be distributed in such manner as the Lord Lieutenant shall think fit.

4. That towards the repairing the forts, mounting guns and providing for stores, a suspension may be made for one year of the following payments upon the Irish Establishment, viz. :—

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Lord Chancellor's Salary | 1000 00 00 |
| Sir Robert Hamilton's salary at Secretary to the Commissioners of Accounts | 2000 00 00 |
| 5000 <i>l.</i> per annum which was paid to the Duke of Ormond | 5000 00 00 |
| The salaries of three of the Commissioners for managing the Revenues | 9000 00 00 |
| Half the 20,000 <i>l.</i> reserved to your Majesty on the Civil List | 10000 00 00 |
| Creation Money | 0544 00 00 |
| Half the Pensions | 5200 00 00 |
| Mr. Hayes, as Controller of the Revenue | 0200 00 00 |
| Sum Total | 23044 00 00 |

EARL OF CORK to ORMOND.

1680, August 15. Lismore.—If the universal sorrow which possesses all men that had the honour to know your incomparable son could for his loss lessen in any measure the grief that your Grace has for it, there would I am sure be subject enough for its mitigation; but since it is of a nature that needs higher helps, your Grace's piety will, I assure myself, persuade you to resort to His divine assistance for support under this affliction, a greater than which, unless it were the loss of my son, I have not myself undergone, who do heartily pray that by the continuance of the remainder of all the branches of your noble family your Grace may find those comforts and satisfactions which you may justly expect.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, August 17. London.—Your Grace's intimation to me by my Lord Arran I have received and obeyed, but if it had not come I had pursued the same method, having had an account from my Lord Chamberlain on Sunday last at Windsor of what his Lordship wrote to your Grace by his Majesty's commands on Saturday last. And indeed His Majesty's expressions to me upon the delivery of your Grace's letter were so affectionate and tender towards your Grace

that I have reason to believe he was in very good earnest and meant truly what he directed my Lord Arlington to write, from whence without further hesitation I concluded it both unnecessary and unreasonable to mention to his Lordship anything of that discourse your Grace gave me in common at parting.

My Lord Granard had so effectually pursued your Grace's commands in representing to His Majesty the state of that kingdom and the necessity of the meeting of the Parliament there to put it into a posture of defence, that by his Lordship's discourse and the arguments my Lord Chamberlain used afterwards to him he was convinced of the necessity of the Parliament's meeting, and accordingly gave order to my Lord Sunderland that the Committee for Irish Affairs should immediately take into their consideration the Bills sent over which had lain asleep by the private whispers and insinuations of Sir James Shaen and others. And yesterday being appointed for their meeting, my Lord Arlington came hither on purpose to attend the committee and promote the passing of the Bills. The first Bill taken into consideration was that for granting the 200,000*l.*, against which most at the Board made objections, and Mr. Hyde proposed that Sir James Shaen might be called in to hear what objections he had to make against that Bill, he pretending that if any such supply was granted by Parliament, that he and his partners were by their contract entitled to the collection of it, and also averring that the poor condition of that kingdom was such that the kingdom could not bear such a charge, the collection of which would both break the farm and the country. To this my Lord Chamberlain replied it could not be imagined that my Lord Lieutenant and the Council there could be so far mistaken in their measures as upon so serious a deliberation to propose a thing so destructive to the kingdom, and it was a disparagement to their government to have the opinion of Sir James Shaen put in balance with the resolutions of the Council there, who were men of interest and fortune, and without doubt as it was their interest to preserve the kingdom, would propose nothing to the disadvantage of it or the King's service. Notwithstanding these arguments insisted on by my Lord Chamberlain and Mr. Secretary Jenkins, they were overruled, and Sir James Shaen was sent for and called in, who alleged the poverty of the kingdom was so great that in the collection of the Revenue their officers were necessitated to distrain the pots, dishes, kettles and blankets of the poor people, and he was sure the running cash in the kingdom was so small that there was hardly enough to answer the King's rents, so that if this supply was granted by Parliament the kingdom must either be ruined by the payment of it and the Revenue, or the present farm of the Revenue must break. Upon which he withdrawing, it was proposed that he should by Thursday morning

bring in his objections and reasons in writing and produce his contract that gave him and his partners the collection of the supply (the benefit whereof it seems he values at a sixth part of the whole). And my Lord Arlington acquainting their Lordships that my Lord Granard and I, who were members of the Council there, and might possibly be privy to the debates upon the Bills, he thought it was necessary that we should be desired to attend their Lordships on Thursday, which was accordingly ordered, and Mr. Gwyn has given us notice of it. This morning I waited upon my Lord President, who told me the several objections Sir James Shaen made, to which I gave his Lordship distinct answers, with which he seemed to be pretty well satisfied. He further told me that the great objection against the Bill for confirmation of the settlement was that if it passed my Lord Ranelagh and the Farmers would be entitled to a defalcation for the benefit they had by their covenant to concealed lands. I answered first my Lord Ranelagh had no pretension, the time of his contract that entitled him to the benefit of concealed lands being some years since expired, and as for the Farmers' pretension, it was but a shadow, they having no title till the lands were discovered, and the benefit that might come to them by the mesne profits of such lands when discovered being an *individuum vagum* and uncertain, they could make no demand of a defalcation for it. His next observation was that we had not sufficiently appropriated the 200,000*l.* to the uses for which it was intended, which he said the committee were resolved to supply, by making the appropriation stronger; I told him it was our respect to the King that made us not save their Lordships that labour, and it being the first example of this kind that was ever offered at by Parliament in Ireland we were unwilling to make it too harsh to the King. His Lordship's next objection was against the sevenpence per pound allowed for the collection of the subsidies, which the Lords of the Committee were of opinion was a very exorbitant allowance, and therefore were resolved to reduce it to threepence per pound. I told his Lordship that from former experience we having found that where the allowance for collection was so small no man of substance would undertake the collection, and consequently His Majesty had been at great loss by the breaking or running away of the collectors, to obviate which inconvenience for the future it was thought expedient a reasonable encouragement should be given that men of substance and estate might undertake the collection who were capable of giving security for performance. These are all the objections (as I remember) his Lordship made, with my answers to which he seemed well satisfied. This afternoon I gave Sir James Shaen a visit, which I did on purpose to feel his pulse, and I find it beat very high, seeming much unsatisfied with your Grace's unkind usage of him, and discountenancing of him and his partners, notwithstanding

all the submissive applications he has made and tender of his service to your Grace from time to time these 20 years past, in which he can call my Lord Chamberlain and Colonel Fitzpatrick as witnesses of his sincerity to your Grace. And that after all he finds no other return from your Grace but neglect, and a proceeding by the Bills sent as if designed to ruin him and his partners, which they could no longer bear, and therefore for their own preservation he was necessitated to oppose the Bills and the sitting of the Parliament, being assured the Farm must break if the supply went on, it being impossible that kingdom could bear both. I told him his passion and mistakes had transported him too far, and I presumed the Lords of the Committee would not be satisfied with his positive assertions unless he backed them with good reasons and demonstrations, or at least unless he could propose a better expedient than a Parliament to put that kingdom into a better posture than now it was. Upon this he fell upon his mercurial notions and computations how the revenue might be improved to 300,000*l.* per annum, and magnified his own service to the King in the improvement of the revenue above 40,000*l.* per annum more than any man else thought it worth. He further told me that by the Bill for the additional revenue they were cut off from the double duty upon foreign goods imported, to which they had a legal right, as they were informed by the best counsel in England. Then I asked him whether they had by their contract a title to the collection of the 200,000*l.* He said they had not, but they had a title to collection of what additional duties of Excise and Customs should be granted by Parliament during their farm. But he had not the book of his grant by him to show me that covenant, which I suppose he will produce on Thursday. He also said that in the Bill for the 200,000*l.* there was an exception of the entertainment of the officers of the Civil and Military Lists, and of the college and hospital, but there was no notice taken of excepting the salaries of their commissioners, so that though they belonged to His Majesty's Revenue they were not thought worthy of any favour. For the rest of his dissatisfactions I refer your Grace to my Lord Arran. My Lord Granard went yesterday to Ham and desired me to acquaint your Grace that he had His Majesty's commands to let your Grace know that the forces designed from Ireland for Tangier are stopped, and that instead of their going to Tangier there will be sent from hence 600 of the new raised foot with their arms to supply the army there and recruit it instead of the antiquated men who are fitter for an hospital than an army, which he would have writ to your Grace by Saturday's packet but that he came from Windsor so late that the packet was gone from this end of the town. My Lord Chamberlain begs of your Grace to remember the falcon your Grace has long since promised him, for which he is contented to send his falconer to Chester.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, August 17. Arlington House.—The grief your Grace expresses in yours of the 9th is no more than what was due to the loss of such a son and such a friend ; I hope you believe I rate my share as I ought to do in it, but I hope withal the Christian and moral remedies you use for the digestion of it will prevail at last upon you, and that the sorrow the world expresses for the loss of him will in some measure alleviate yours, for it is certain a man never dies so well as when he is most lamented, and without flattery in this particular your son has the advantage of all the men small or great that have fallen within my knowledge and observation.

According as your Grace hath directed me I will send my young Lord of Ossory back to Oxford, tho' he goes with some repugnancy, and I myself have not less to send him, because I know the discipline of Faubert's Academy would have turned more to account with him than that of the college, and the exercise have done him more good, for his taille wants it as well as the strength of his constitution. His father's body lies in a vault in Westminster Abbey, to be transported into Ireland as your Grace shall direct. Your goodness to the mother is like yourself, and 'tis certain more of that kind cannot be done than she deserves, and yet she is happy to be in your hands.

Here enclosed I send your Grace two letters from the Prince of Orange, one for yourself, the other for my Lady of Ossory, and the terms wherein he expresses his grief to me for what we have lost deserve, methinks, you should see them, wherefore I here also enclose a copy of my letter from His Highness.

I leave it to your Grace's other correspondents to tell you what difficulties have offered themselves upon the reading the Money Bills, for the Parliament of Ireland. The Committee met yesterday upon them, and Thursday they are to meet again. The King is himself very desirous of a Parliament in that kingdom, but others are not.

SIR WILLIAM PETTY to LADY ———.

1680, August 21.—I have sent on the paper, but not for Mrs. Crook to print, but for Mr. Secretary to consider. The name of Ossory is a tender thing, he that sullies it by handling it with dirty thumbs won't be excused by saying he meant no harm. 'Twas writ between the time of the first credible news he was dead and the certainty of it ; but since worn out in the author's pocket for fear it was not suitable to the subject. But since nobody appears, whereas I thought a hundred would, let this (after consideration) go out to draw them on.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, August 21. Whitehall.—I should long ere this have sent your Grace an accompt of the Bills transmitted, but that it was many weeks before my Lords of the Committee entered upon the consideration of them. I cannot say that any one Bill that hath been before their Lordships hath escaped some little animadversion now under a reference to the Attorney and Solicitor General; there hath no Bill yet been absolutely laid aside, but that enabling ecclesiastical persons to let leases for lives. The Act for granting 200,000*l.* to His Majesty is now under debate. Sir James Shaen was called upon to give in his reflections upon it in the behalf of the Farmers. A copy of what he gave in on Thursday last I take leave herewith to enclose. Whether the Committee will resolve to transmit them in the shape and under the name they now are is not determined. It is to be hoped the Bill will pass here, and on that side too, notwithstanding the objections against it. For besides the deference that in such cases is most justly due to your Grace, I do not well see how any man will dare to advise the King not to call a Parliament as soon as may be, since your Grace and the Government there have advised and prepared for it as the best (if not only) means to answer the necessities and to prevent the dangers of that kingdom. On Monday my Lords are to receive Sir James Shaen's expedients how to provide what is wanting without a Parliament; if they be in writing I shall not fail to transmit them to your Grace. The extracts of your letters to Mr. Secretary Coventry, the Earl of Essex, and the Earl of Danby, that your Grace did me the honour to transmit to me, I have read over carefully and afterwards communicated them to Mr. Hyde and Mr. Godolphin; they have given me very good light and help in some debates, and will do so particularly when my Lords do come to the Bills of Settlement. I most humbly thank your Grace for them.

VISCOUNT GRANARD to LORD [EARL of ARRAN].

1680, August 21. London.—The honour of your Lordship's I received, and all I can now say is matters here are at the same uncertainty as formerly, whether a Parliament or not is the debate in the Committee for Ireland. By my last to my Lord Lieutenant I gave his Grace a narrative of what had passed here till my Lord Longford's arrival, who has the pen of a ready writer and will ease his Grace of the trouble of reading my scribble. There is reported of several changes both in Court and country preparative to the sitting of the Parliament here, but since they are no more than conjectures I will not trouble your Lordship further with them.

Postscript.—Since my writing of this I have got Sir James Shaen's objections against a Parliament in Ireland, which he gave in to the Council on Wednesday last, which the Clerk

of the Council sent me. I have not time to get them copied, but you may expect them by the next post. I assure you they are insolent

JOHN KNOX to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, August 21. Dublin.—I most heartily condole the great loss that your honour and indeed the kingdoms have had in the death of your truly noble brother. I wish the loss may be made up by some of his hopeful issue.

The Lord Mayor hath appointed the thirtieth of this month for perambulating the franchises of this city, and will be attended by the several Corporations, and I, being at this time Master of the Guild of Merchants, design to give them a small treat, which makes me presume to entreat the favour of your honour to send me an order for a buck, which not only myself but the Corporation will own as a favour. We shall next week have two presses going, the work goes on very well.

RICHARD MULYS to CAPTAIN GEORGE MATHEW.

1680, August 21. Whitehall, Saturday.—Yesterday I received the honour of yours of 11th and find both my Lord Arlington and Sir James Butler at this time at Windsor, my next must therefore answer your commands in the particular of my Lady's administration, and by that time I may also hope to send a list of the debt and credit as you mention.

On Thursday last my Lord James returned to Windsor with my Lord Chamberlain, with purpose as on Monday next to part thence to Oxford, according to his Grace's desires, and there to remain till his Grace's pleasure concerning the disposing of him for the time to come be known.

I have this day put the remaining part of my late Lord's family to board-wages, and warned them all to provide for themselves, as my Lord Arlington thought fit to direct; pursuant to the paper formerly sent, I have put the Diamond George and Garter, etc., into my Lord Chamberlain's custody, and have taken a note under his Lordship's hand of the receipt thereof, copy whereof shall be sent to you in my next.

If Sir Stephen Fox be not concerned for my Lady in the administration, it were not amiss that his Grace writ to him to concern himself in getting in such money as is in arrear and due to her from the several public funds; his dexterity that way, besides his present station, rendering him most capable in that particular. The Bishop of St. Asaph elect, Dr. Lloyd, who is at present minister of our parish of St. Martin's, was with my Lord in time of his sickness, and performed those actions of Christianity which belonged to his function much to the satisfaction of my noble Lord, as it was also highly pleasing to the Bishop to find his Lordship,

who had been so much upon the stage of the world in action and living in a Court, so fit to die. My Lord Chamberlain thought it necessary for his Grace to write to the Bishop acknowledging his Lordship's kindness and great concern for my Lord. It was indeed very extraordinary, being five or six days and some nights in watching and prayer with him. It is presumed a present of a piece of plate, to what value her Ladyship thinks fit, would be becoming, and also to have my Lord Arlington's servants where his Lordship died rewarded.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, August 21. London.—I am but just now returned from Windsor, whither I went yesterday to serve my Lord Chancellor, and it is so late that I fear I shall scarce have time to give your Grace so full an account of our Irish affairs as is necessary for your Grace to have. Upon my Lord Granard's representing (by your Grace's commands) to His Majesty the ill condition of that kingdom for want of money to provide stores, ammunition of all kinds, repair forts, etc., and that the calling of a Parliament would be necessary to furnish His Majesty with a supply for those ends, His Majesty commanded my Lord Granard to give in his memorial to my Lord Sunderland, which his Lordship accordingly did, being a copy of your Grace's instructions to him. Upon this the triumvirate met, calling to their assistance my Lord President, my Lord Essex, and my Lord Clarendon (being all members of the Committee for the Affairs of Ireland), but my Lord Arlington (though then in town) was not summoned, nor my Lord Chancellor, nor Mr. Secretary Jenkins, nor Sir William Temple (though all of them were members of the same Committee). At this consultation, having no mind that a Parliament should yet sit in Ireland, and being convinced that it was of absolute necessity some present provision should be made to rescue that kingdom out of that defenceless and naked condition it is now in, it was agreed that some part of the present payments which might best be spared might for a twelve months be suspended from the use it is designed in the establishment, and applied for the putting that kingdom in some posture of defence, and 25,000*l.* being the sum by them thought sufficient for that use, they agreed to propose it last Council day to the King; and that 10,000*l.* of the money reserved for His Majesty's use, half of the pensions being 5,200*l.*, the 5,000*l.* per annum, which was formerly reserved to your Grace, my Lord Chancellor's 1,000*l.* (because he is believed a very rich man and can spare it), 900*l.* of the fifteen which the Commissioners of Inspection have, concluding two Commissioners sufficient to manage that affair, my Lady Francis Kyately's 200*l.*, and some other small pensions which were not mentioned to me. This project being resolved on last Council day and a positive

order for it being directed to be drawn up by the Clerk of the Council to be by my Lord Sunderland sent this night to your Graces, I went yesterday to Windsor to lay plainly before His Majesty my Lord Chancellor's case, which was particular and distinct in the hardship of it from all the rest, and I had the good fortune to press it so home by the assistance of the Duke, that His Majesty this day has ordered my Lord Sunderland to stop the order till next Council day. And His Majesty promised that part of it which concerned my Lord Chancellor should not pass. But whether he will not be overruled in it by the aforementioned Lords, who are still positive in it unless an expedient can be proposed by Mr. Muschamp to supply my Lord Chancellor's 1,000*l.*, I dare not undertake. It is supposed this is a device to necessitate my Lord Chancellor of himself in discontent at this usage to quit the Seal and by this means to disoblige the King of that good opinion he has of him. But my Lord Chamberlain and Mr. Coventry are of the opinion, if (notwithstanding my endeavours to serve him) this hardship should be put upon him, his Grace should by no means take notice of it, but cheerfully submit to it for the present, it being impossible this torrent should last. On Thursday last the Committee for Irish Affairs met to consider of the Bill of Supply, when Sir James Shaen delivered in a paper of his objections against it, containing three sheets of paper, a copy whereof procured by Mr. Secretary Jenkins (who is your Grace's most entire and zealous servant) my Lord Granard just now delivered to me, but I have had neither time to read it or to get it transcribed, but by the next packet your Grace shall have it. I moved both Mr. Hyde and my Lord Sunderland that a copy of it might be sent your Grace by the Committee, which they say they had ordered if they had thought it material. After they had read it Sir James Shaen was called in and asked two questions, 1st, whether he could shew any clause in his contract that did entitle him and his partners to the collection of the 200,000*l.*, which he averred the day the Committee last sat; the 2nd, by what clause in his contract they were entitled to a defalcation in case this Act passed. To the first he answered in the negative, and said it was a mistake, for he averred only he and his partners were entitled to the collection of the additional duties upon those branches of the Revenue which were already farmed to them. But their Lordships by this answer were convinced of his jugglery, for that Bill has never yet been in debate before them. And my Lord President remembered he then asked him how much he valued the collection of the 200,000*l.*, to which he replied at a sixth part. In answer to the second question he produced the general clause for defalcation in his grant, upon perusal of which they unanimously declared he was not entitled to any defalcation, nor could not upon that clause in his contract

legally demand it. Then my Lord Granard and I were called in and asked whether the Farmers in Ireland made any objections to that Bill, and whether they were consulted in it. We answered that we knew of neither. Then we were asked whether considering the arrears claimed by the late Farmers and my Lord Ranelagh, and the scarcity of money in the kingdom, the country was able to bear all those payments together with the rent due upon the present farm, and this supply altogether. We answered that when that sum was to be inserted in the Bill, your Grace and the Council had that matter in consideration, and concluded the kingdom was able to bear it. Then my Lord Chancellor asked what need was there for that clause of enlarging the periods of payments. We answered it was very necessary, because if upon experience those payments were found hard upon the people it might be in the power of your Grace and the Council to ease them by enlarging the times of payments. And as for the present condition of the kingdom we assured their Lordships it was much better now than any time since the King's restoration, for the rents of particular persons were not only well paid, but the rents of lands generally increased as well as the purchase of lands within these three or four years past, from whence we concluded the poverty of the kingdom was not such as Sir James Shaen represented it. Then my Lord President said we had been asked questions enough, and that they had no more to trouble us with. So we withdrew, and their Lordships rose without taking any resolution, referring the further debate till Monday next in the afternoon. My Lord Chamberlain, Mr. Secretary Jenkins, Mr. Coventry and Sir William Temple made very smart observations upon Sir James Shaen's paper, and were very kind in their regards to your Grace and the Board. And I doubt not but they will continue them on Monday next. I had a long discourse with His Majesty this morning upon this subject, and find His Majesty has no reverend opinion of Sir James Shaen's projects, with which it seems he has charmed my Lord of Essex and Mr. Hyde, though he could make no impression with them upon your Grace, for he has now the same propositions on foot he made by me to your Grace. My Lord Ranelagh came last night to town, and being this day in discourse with my Lord Granard, shewed as little inclination for the meeting of the Parliament there as Sir James Shaen has ; and perhaps by this means he hopes to make his court to the men in power before whom his appeal is like to be brought. I hear no news of the return which the Commissioners of his accounts are to make to the King and Council here of his balance, nor to whom it is directed if it be sent away from thence ; and this caution I must give your Grace, that I hear my Lord President will take it ill if it be not sent to him. I had almost forgot to tell your Grace that the Parliament is to meet here the 21st

of October, and a Proclamation ordered to that purpose. One great argument with our statists here is that it may prove of great inconvenience to have a Parliament sit here and in Ireland at the same time, whereas by the delay upon the Bills before them it is impossible a Parliament can meet there by the 21st of October, nor will not by Christmas according to the method now used. The argument against the 200,000*l.* is that it will come in too slowly to answer the pressing necessities of our defence, which requires a speedier supply. And yet the expedient as yet offered is but 25,000*l.* per annum. So that it is past my logic or politics to reconcile these contradictions. His Majesty told me this morning that he had directed Mr. Hyde to send your Grace some queries to have your resolution in.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 21. Blessinton.—The enclosed from Mr. Sher. I received but yesterday, and hold it my duty to transmit it to your Grace. What he saith of me I must absolutely disown, and look upon it only as his civility and compliment; what concerns your Grace therein may perhaps be worthy your Grace's consideration, whether you will think fit to take any notice thereof or to reserve it to yourself; however, I think it very reasonable that your Grace should know it. The other from my Lady Orrery will acquaint your Grace with her Ladyship's desires about the yacht, wherein if your Grace will be pleased to give your directions to Mr. Ellis, I presume he will remit them to me.

By a letter which I received from another hand out of England I am informed that exceptions are made by some of the great lords there unto the Bill which gives liberty for Bishops to make leases for three lives as tending to the prejudice of their successors. This certainly cannot be the reason thereof, if any such thing be, for it is very apparent and plainly evident that it is for the advantage of their successors, and is agreeable to most of the Church tenures in England. There can be no reason at the bottom but this: that the holding for lives makes the Bishop's tenants freeholders and enables them to vote in the elections for Members of Parliament, and perhaps it may be thought by some that this may prove a great strength to the Royal interest. God help us, when the greatest argument to have it done is made an argument against it. I pray God send us better times.

ORMOND to VISCOUNT GRANARD.

1680, August 23. Kilkenny.—Since yours of the 2nd instant I find the Bills have been under further consideration, and I shall patiently attend the result. Your Lordship has fully observed the particulars I recommended to you, only you have exceeded in the estimate you were pleased to make of my ability and interest, but whatever they are or shall be

they shall be always employed in the service of the Crown. I have presumed once more to move that what exceptions are or shall be taken to the Bills or any part of them may be sent over to be considered by those that drew them. I know that formally proceeding thus may be more than can be insisted on by us, but if a kingdom be in hazard I believe it ought not continue so upon formalities. I have nothing to add to what you were content to charge yourself withal or to this letter.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARLINGTON.

1680, August 23. Kilkenny.—I have deciphered the paper that came with your Lordship's of the 10th instant, but think it not necessary to trouble you with a return the same way. His Majesty's pleasure concerning Johnson shall be punctually obeyed upon his retaking; he hath made frivolous excuses for his double endeavour to escape. The King's pleasure concerning myself shall be cheerfully undertaken and your Lordship's advice followed. The Lord that wondered at my persisting to advise a Parliament here had more reason than perhaps he was aware of, for it is plain if I did consider my profit, my ease, my security, or my credit, and would put them in balance against some probability of serving my Master, I ought not to be so earnest for it; and since I may very possibly be mistaken and disappointed in my main purpose as the world goes, the least intimation of His Majesty's disapprobation will be argument enough to silence me; but if he shall think a disappointment well ventured for the advantages that may be obtained, which may be better revolved than expressed, then I must humbly beseech him that the Bills transmitted may not be blasted by whisperers or laid aside without his servants here being thought worthy the receiving some reasons for such a proceeding. How useful it may be that we should be consulted will appear by considering two or three Bills stuck at. That for enabling Bishops to make leases for lives was not by me calculated or considered as it may be of advantage to the Church (tho' I shall always own my reverence and affection to it), but of the Crown in elections to all future Parliaments, for the Bishops making their tenants freeholders and consequently electors, and the King making Bishops, he is always secure of so many well affected members. If Bishops be well enough chosen to understand their own interest, what reason can be given to lay aside such a Bill, I am to seek. The Bill for laying a greater imposition upon coals intended for pious uses I find is referred to the Solicitor to know whether it be usual to lay impositions upon commodities imported from England, when it is so notorious that nothing I can call to mind is landed out of England here, but pays duties, and from thence arises a great part of the Revenue, but if His Majesty shall command the exceptions taken to bills or part of Bills to be transmitted in writing he will the better judge of all.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, August 24.—I have received what your Grace honoured me with by the Earl of Longford. I have been since twice in this town from my solitude to attend the Committee for the Irish Bills. My Lord Longford will, I doubt not, give you a particular detail of that affair and what advance hath been since made, and what obstructions are at present and what more are likely to be interposed in it. They are mysteries beyond a country understanding, and are not likely to be revealed to me till October, when everybody probably will see farther than anybody upon good grounds doth at present. The house I spoke of is yet to be had, but I hope there will be no occasion for it. I shall shew it my Lord Longford when he pleaseth. Our news from Tangier is very bad, the Moors being before it with a considerable army; there is a good garrison in the place and more men are going. We are generally melancholy and I think with reason. I am returning back to my retreat at the Chase to converse with neighbours that have no more cunning than myself.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, August 24. London.—On Monday in the afternoon the Committee for the affairs of Ireland met, and (after some debate) their Lordships proceeded to the reading again the Bill of 200,000*l.*; the minutes of the Committee I have herewith enclosed, which was all that was done upon that subject, only some of the Lords reserved themselves to speak to the matter of the Bill and raising money in Ireland by way of Land Tax till another occasion. The debate I mentioned was concerning a paper brought by Mr. Hyde which had been read and approved by His Majesty, and was said to be recommended by him to the Committee; it contained heads of a letter to be writ from the Board to your Grace and Council of Ireland. The Bill being allowed to have the precedence and first read, the paper was again taken up, but according to the best of my memory was to this purpose.

1. That the Farmers of the Revenue of Ireland, being apprehensive of great inconveniences which would come to the Farm in case the Bills for money should pass, believed they must be forced to throw up the farm: therefore, to know
2. In what condition the kingdom of Ireland is in as to the present state of the Revenue and whether, if the Bills pass, the kingdom is so able to bear it that it may not be a great prejudice to the King's future Revenue there, so much that the Farmers may justly be entitled to defalcations, the King's affairs at present being in such a posture that it is not possible for him to admit of any.

3. That there should be transmitted to the Board a copy of the present Establishment of Ireland as now it stands, with the addition of the Earl of Dumbarton's Regiment; how the forces are at present paid that were sent from

thence to Tangier; what pensions are already stopt by order? Of what rates the ten ships are which are mentioned to be built in the Bill of 200,000*l.* their number of guns and men, how they are to be maintained when built, with an account of what it will yearly cost the King for their maintenance? How provision shall be made upon the Establishment for an addition of men intended to be sent over to increase the army of Ireland? What can be allowed out of the present Revenue towards repairing the forts, providing ammunition, stores, etc.? That the Concordatum money should be 6,000*l.* per annum. I humbly beg your Grace's pardon if I have misrepeated or omitted anything, having but once read it over.

Mr. Hublan, a Spanish merchant, brought a letter which he had received at that minute from a correspondent of his at Cadiz, which gave an account that the Moors had broke the truce, and that the Alcayd was before Tangier with ten thousand men, but it is here hoped the news may not be true, for the King hath no advice from his Governor there, though there are two expresses at present at Tangier, neither are there any other letters come to the Exchange of that subject.

Since my last to your Grace, I have advice of the death of a gentleman in the country (which though otherways is not disadvantageous to me), yet at this time I must esteem it very unfortunate, since it unavoidably occasions my going out of town to-morrow at a time when, if ever, I might be most capable of paying my service to your Grace in my small station. I fear my journey will take me up three weeks' time. In the meantime I have taken care to have the minutes of the Council and Committee transmitted duly to your Grace by my clerk. And though I could wish the Bills might receive greater dispatch, yet I doubt there will be no great progress made in them at present.

I find the letter to your Grace from my Lord of Sunderland, including the Report of Suspensions, was not sent by Saturday's post as was intended, nor is not to go to-night, the occasion of its stop is some alteration His Majesty intends to make in those suspensions, and particularly that part of it which relates to my Lord Chancellor of Ireland; for that part which concerns myself I have used very little intercession here, but lay myself entirely at your Grace's feet, and most humbly beg the favour that your Grace will be pleased to have me in your thoughts as one that faithfully is, etc.

Postscript.—It is now confidently reported that Bedloe is dead.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, August 24. London.—Mr. Secretary Jenkins having told me that he sent your Grace by Saturday's packet a copy of Sir James Shaen's objections against the Bill for a supply

to His Majesty of 200,000*l.*, I have forborne sending one, though I had prepared a duplicate of it. On Sunday a little before His Majesty went to Council, my Lord Chamberlain had some discourse with His Majesty about our Parliament in Ireland, and convinced His Majesty so thoroughly of the conveniency to His Majesty's affairs and the satisfaction of that kingdom in providing for their own defence in it, that when the Council sat the King fell very warmly upon the debate of it, and told their Lordships he would rather depend upon the opinion and judgment of his Lord Lieutenant and Council there than trust to Sir James Shaen's projects, whom he knew by long experience to be a very notional and busy man, but he could not rely either upon his honesty or skill ; and therefore recommended to the Lords of the Committee for Irish affairs to make all the despatch they could of the Bills sent over. This His Majesty was positive in, notwithstanding all was said against it by my Lord Essex and Mr. Hyde, who gave very large encomiums of Sir James Shaen. Yesterday their Lordships met in the afternoon, where the debate lasted for an hour and half whether the reading the Bill of Supply or the draught of a letter Mr. Hyde had prepared of some queres (concerning the Bills) to your Grace should have the preference, and his importunity being submitted to, and upon reading his draught it being found necessary that the Bills should be looked into before it would be proper to send the queres upon them, the Bill of Supply was then read ; to which these following exceptions are taken :—

1. That every branch of the King's Revenue ought to be excepted from this tax as well as the lands of the college and hospital, otherwise that Bill gives with one hand to the King and then takes away with the other.
2. It is observed that this Bill too strictly appropriates and obliges the ships to be built to the defence and service of Ireland, as if it were designed to make that kingdom independent of this. And therefore the amendment of these two particulars is recommended to Mr. Attorney General.
- The third is that the Commissioners are to be named by the Parliament, and the subdivisions of the sums for each county made by the Parliament, which is conjectured by some of the Lords to be against Poynings' Act.
- The fourth, that it is a Land Tax, and not a Subsidy Bill, whereas a Subsidy Bill, which would excuse the poorer sorts, it is alleged would have been properer for Ireland, where poor people are so numerous.

And lastly that this Bill differs from all other Bills of Supply that have been granted in Ireland, and therefore it was wished they had a copy of the last Bills of Subsidies granted there in the last Parliament, of the titles of which there is only mention made in the Book of Statutes. These (my Lord) are the several objections I have collectéd were made upon the debate yesterday, the result of which is that the Bill is neither approved of nor rejected, but laid by for the present till their

Lordships have better digested these exceptions. Before they rose the Bill for the additional duties, etc., was put into the hands of Sir George Downing (who is believed to be well skilled in trade) and Sir James, a party concerned in the Farm, who are on Saturday next to bring their exceptions in writing if they have any. By this slow method of proceeding your Grace may judge in what time all the Bills will be run through, and when the Bill for Confirmation is taken into consideration I hear Captain Thornhill has a petition ready in behalf of the deficient adventurers, and that the nominees have an agent here with another petition in the behalf against the Bill, by which your Grace may perceive that the train is laid to put off the meeting of the Parliament to as long a day as can be, if not to disappoint its meeting absolutely. For the King going to Newmarket upon the 13th of the next month it is not to be imagined any Committees will sit in his absence, the great Ministers being to attend His Majesty there, and then after his return the meeting of the Parliament here will postpone any thoughts of Ireland. I had forgot to acquaint your Grace that one exception to the Bill of Supply, that care was taken for building of ships in the first place, but their Lordships will have the providing of arms, stores, repairing of fortifications precede the building of the ships. The project for the suspension of those payments I mentioned to your Grace in my last will not (as I am informed) come to your Grace this packet, and when it is sent I hope my Lord Chancellor's 1,000*l.* will be no part of it. Mr. Gwyn (whom I find very affectionate to your Grace's service) hopes if there be room left for three Commissioners of Inspection, and that the naming of them who are to stand be left to your Grace, your Grace will oblige him by continuing him, since two upon the place may be sufficient to discharge that work, and he may be so useful to your Grace here as to deserve that indulgence from you. This day Mr. Nash was sent to me by Sir James Shaen to tell me that if he may yet be admitted to any share of your Grace's favour, he had rather be your Grace's servant than any man's living. Without doubt he has so possessed Mr. Hyde with that proposition he made to your Grace by me that Mr. Hyde's desire to value himself to the King upon so plausible a proposition for His Majesty's advantage is one of the motions that has engaged him to struggle against the meeting of the Parliament in Ireland with that warmth he does. If your Grace pleases to write to Mr. Coventry, Mr. Secretary Jenkins and Sir William Temple taking notice of their zeal to serve your Grace and the public, for they have very zealously endeavoured to stem this torrent against you. My Lord Granard presents his most humble duty to your Grace, and commands me to tell your Grace that while I am in England with him he has appointed me his secretary to your Grace, and therefore concludes himself absolved from giving your Grace the

trouble of his letters. However, he will never decline your Grace's service, wherein it shall be within his power to serve you.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 24. Blessinton.—I received from Mr. Ellis by your Grace's directions some minutes of the proceedings of the Committee for the affairs of Ireland upon some of those Bills which were transmitted by your Grace and Council. Amongst them I find that the Bill for enabling Bishops to set leases for lives is rejected. If I could wonder at anything in this age this would be to me matter of admiration, a great end of that Bill being designed for the service of the King and country, the former by the votes of the tenants at the elections for Parliament, the latter by the addition of freeholders to complete juries, of which there is great want in many parts of this kingdom. Besides, the gratification of the Bishops and clergy is that which constantly hath been done in all Parliaments, and that could not be done an easier way than this, it being no more than what is agreeable to the laws and practice in England, and convenient for succession and improvement, and must be of necessity be well pleasing both to tenant and landlord. I offer to your Grace's consideration whether it may not be worthy your Grace's trouble to engage my Lord Longford in your Grace's name to attend the Lords of the Committee about it, for amongst those many Bills which have been transmitted by your Grace I cannot recollect any one in the behalf of the Church in general but this. How then can we expect a hearty concurrence of the Bishops in other necessary Bills when they shall know that they are refused in this only one. I must ingeniously acknowledge to your Grace that I shall not be able with any confidence to depend upon them when they shall find my interest so little as not to serve them in such a modest degree. And when they shall see no provision made for the Church amongst many other Bills for secular affairs, they will have some reason to doubt that the Government is either careless of them or unconcerned for them. This was not usual in other Parliaments; the first Article of the Magna Charta (which was confirmed by very many Parliaments) was ever for the advantages and privileges of the Church. I received some account of this intended rejection by the last packet and writ to my Lord Longford about it before I received your Grace's paper. I humbly submit to your Grace whether you shall think fit to offer anything in this matter or no, for I am doubtful that some other Bills of more concern will find difficulty enough to pass, for I am advertised by this packet that some of this kingdom's pretended friends have already avouched to that Committee that if the King would retrench his 200,000*l.* and the pensions, it would do the business of this kingdom well enough without a Parliament. God help us. I pray God bless your Grace.

Postscript.—The Lord Ranelagh was not got to London when this packet came away, but I understand by my old correspondent that the fair lady met him at his landing.

ORMOND TO EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, August 25. Carrick.—I received your Lordship's of the 17 at Kilkenny as I was ready to take coach to come hither to divert myself, which I have done but very ill, bringing with me an additional sorrow for the death of my sister Hamilton, of which I was assured as I was reading your letter, before I knew that she was under more than a slight distemper, but I thank God He has taught me to submit with cheerfulness to his good pleasure. My Lord Chamberlain's discourse on occasion of the Bills was like a Councillor in better times than we are fallen into. I have endeavoured to let the King and his Lordship understand my part in the affair, and that I am no further concerned whether there be a Parliament or no, or how the Bills shall be cast out or mended, than as I conceive they may tend to the security of the Crown and subject, so that Sir James Shaen is as much mistaken as ever he was if he thinks to anger me with exercising his false assertions and mysterious notions against those Bills, tho' since he believes he does, I am to take it for an argument of his formidable displeasure and guard myself the best I can; in the meantime if he were worth an expostulation I could be content he were put in mind of the private articles of his propositions transmitted to me by your Lordship about a year ago, and desired to declare how I have offended his mightiness since. If it be because his projects are too refined for my capacity to comprehend, or, as I think, for anybody to put in practice, his indignation is very unjust, and I shall die in my error, for I think him always fallible and very seldom intelligible. I shall be sorry if your Lordship and my Lord Granard have entered the lists against so sceptical a politician, and I hope His Majesty and his Council will not think it fit work for his Chief Governor and Council here to answer all the quirks and ravings that flow from him, and that they will believe that they, his Judges and learned Counsel, are neither natural fools or madmen.

I send your Lordship some remarks upon the pretensions made by the Farmers in virtue of the letters obtained by them from the King and Lords of the Treasury, also an Order given by me in their favour notwithstanding those remarks, and notwithstanding that I know my condescension will be interpreted by Sir James to be for fear of him. But I look at the King's service and will not be put out of my road either by his impertinent and saucy expressions or by his most flattering cajolings. I would not have him have the satisfaction they will give others to whom your Lordship may more properly shew them. I am called to dinner and so must break off.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680, August 26. Immediately after the never sufficiently to be lamented loss of my Lord Ossory, my young Lord being sent for from me, I hold it my duty to break in upon your griefs and give an account of the disposal of that great and now more endeared treasure which had been deposited with me. My young Lord being this day sent back hither, I am concerned to send unto your Excellency an account thereof by the first opportunity and present my assurances as of all possible care of his person, so of my utmost endeavour for his improvement. But the methods thereof being to be suited to the time which your Excellency allots for his stay, I should be very glad of some light therein, that accordingly I might suit the instruction to the better advantage. The change that is made in my Lord's attendance is, I presume, according to your Excellency's order, so that it will be superfluous to render an account of it. I shall therefore only beg pardon for the rudeness of this second intrusion, and with my prayers that your comforts and supports may be answerable to your great affliction, remain, etc.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, August 28. London.—In my last by the last post I told your Grace how far we had gone in the Committee, and what difficulties we had met with, proceeding upon the Irish Bills. I think I mentioned therein that we were to meet again as on this day, and that Sir James Shaen was to have a copy of the Bill for Additional Duties and to bring in writing his exceptions to it, which accordingly he did, but not so perfect as he says in a little more time he can make it. We have directed him to make it complete against Tuesday afternoon. His objections seemed to us all friends, and foes to have great weight in them, and that in a word his Majesty would be a greater loser than gainer by the Bill. All I could say in behalf of it was that it was strange to me that the Council of Ireland should prepare and transmit a Bill of that nature to us without consulting the Farmers of the Revenue, if at least Sir James Shaen speaks their mind as well as his own, and concluded my proposition that the exceptions thus finished by Sir James Shaen might be transmitted with all speed to the Lord Lieutenant and Council, which is promised accordingly. In my former I forgot to tell your Grace that Sir Robert Southwell, transferring his place of Clerk of the Council to Mr. Gwyn, had told me he had disposed him to transmit from time to time all things worth your knowledge which should occur, and that I asking the said Mr. Gwyn the other day whether he did so, he answered me he did, and would continue doing so, in which I gave him all possible encouragement, and promised to make his service known as valuable to your Grace as I could. Wherefore I beseech you as there is occasion for it to take notice thereof in such obliging

terms as may encourage his service herein, which cannot but be of great use to your Grace, and in this conjuncture particularly, when I am going as I shall do God willing the next week into the country to stay there until His Majesty's return from Newmarket.

COUNTESS of CLANCARTY to ORMOND.

1680, August 28. Yours from Carrick gave me the surprising news of my sister Hamilton's death, and along with it reflections that are very profitable to me. I had some troubles before upon my hands besides our common great one, for two packets together brought me news of my daughter Fingall and Betty's being ill of the fever that is common and mortal in England. The last of them speaks of my daughter's being amended, but Betty's being worse; but the last of all that came in brings me no news of them nor letters, but the enclosed from Justin, which I send you, that you may please to tell me what answer I may make to that part relating to yourself. He was, I perceive, in the ardour of his passion and grief when he writ it, which made him perhaps propose a thing improper for these times. As to myself I do pray and beseech God and employ all my endeavours that I may spare my sorrow and tears for my sins, where they can only be profitable, and since I cannot yet prevail to have any for my sins, they shall not be misplaced or misspent any other way if I can with all my endeavours hinder them, and for the rest I strive all I can by diversions to keep myself above all other troubles. It is said you have appointed my Lord of Ossory's funeral to be performed in this country. I do much apprehend the doing so may uphold and aggravate the grief of his friends, and make those best resigned to give ground, unless he could be so privately interred with his ancestors that few should know it till it were past, for that of being in their monument must needs be the only motive of that design; methinks the precedent of the private funerals of the late prince and princesses, the Duke of Gloster, the Princess Royal, the Queen of Bohemia and the Duchess might serve for models in this case, and I hope it may. I have of late lost half the ill sight I had by a mist I have before my eyes, so that I hardly can write or read but by guess. I am entering into a course of physic and bathing for that and the pain in my arms, if it may please God I shall mend by those remedies. I purpose to wait on you and my sister Ormond at Kilkenny, and if I could find it were any service to you both I would go as I am, blind and lame. I most humbly salute you both.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 29. Blessinton.—In my last I gave your Grace some account of a proposal that was made to the Lords of the Committee for the Affairs of Ireland; that the King's

20,000*l.* and the pensions being withdrawn the Revenue of this kingdom would be sufficient for its charge without the trouble of a Parliament. It seems by Captain Stone's letter (here enclosed) that they have made some alterations upon that proposal, and have imposed the weight thereof upon other persons. I do not well understand what the meaning is of withdrawing 2,500*l.* per annum out of the Lord of Ormond's quit rents, but as to what concerns myself I am pretty well satisfied that some persons may have a design upon my employment, and they do not well know upon what pretence to have it taken from me, and therefore have chose this way as a means to make me decline it of myself. And indeed the contriver may thus far promise himself success, that I shall never attempt to hold it upon dishonourable terms ; your Grace have known my inclinations in that particular before this time. However, I shall not write anything about it unto anyone until I shall know your Grace's sense upon the whole matter, who, I presume, have received a more particular account of that business than Captain Stone hath sent me. By the same packet I received two letters out of England, one from my Lord Longford, another from Mr. Secretary Jenkins (which I presume to enclose to your Grace), and your Grace will not find in either of them the least word of this matter. Neither did I receive any letter by that packet from Denny Muschamp, so that it seems this purpose was kept as a secret before it was resolved on. Indeed, Denny Muschamp did some weeks since write to me that if your Grace would not decline insisting on a Parliament, he doubted it would bring some great prejudice upon your Grace and upon your servants before we expected it. He found some great persons there so severely bent against it. This I shewed your Grace, but I could not imagine that prejudice could have been intended by any that declared themselves for His Majesty's advantage.

Sir Thomas Newcomen delivered me the honour of your Grace's of the 23 instant. And the Farmers of the Revenue called upon me here, and acquainted me with your Grace's agreement with them according to that warrant your Grace was pleased to send me. I wish it may do their work, but I doubt they are somewhat distrustful of it themselves.

Your Grace may be pleased that Mr. Secretary Gascoigne return me the enclosed letters.

CHIEF JUSTICE KEATING to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, August 30. Roscommon.—My loved and dear Lord, here it is that I had the honour of yours of the 16th than which nothing could be more welcome ; believe me, my Lord, your thoughts of me in relation to yourself are not astray, for surely I shall persevere, blow high, blow low.

What would I give for the opportunity of one half hour with you at Kilkenny. Believe me my lord if you go not for

England, as I have formerly written and advised you should, you will live to acknowledge it an error. I find very many busy there and many playing the game who understand it not, and if any person of quality would appear there that may have audience, doubtless the bare reason of things would carry them thorough. If Sir Richard Stephens were at London, as he must be, and your lordship at Court, I am certain it would much mend the face of things. I beg your lordship's pardon, I am so tired in Court, where I write this, and where I have been since eight in the morning, and it is now eight at night that I know not what I write.

SIR PHILIP LLOYD to ORMOND.

1680, August 31. Council Chamber.—When I was in waiting before, at my Lord Ossory's command I gave him such minutes as were worth transmitting to your Grace, since which I hope my brethren have taken care to do the same in their turns, but, I coming in again the next month, will presume to renew that trouble to your Grace. I do not doubt but your Grace hath had a full account of those debates that have passed here concerning the two money Bills to this day. This afternoon the Committee met about the additional duty Bill and read all Sir James Shaen's exceptions to it, which (methought) did weigh so far with their lordships as inclined them against the passing of it, but they ordered a letter to be written to your Grace to enclose a copy of them, for your Grace to acquaint the Council with, and to give such answer to as you shall think fit; this letter I presume will go by the next post. Next Thursday the Committee meets again about the 200,000*l.* Bill, in which some alterations have been made. I have sent notice of it to my Lord Chamberlain, who, I presume, will be present at that Committee, as he hath at every one, except this to-day, his lordship being at Windsor. I shall be proud to be honoured with your Grace's commands and obey them.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, August 31. Blessinton.—I last night received the honour of your Grace's of the 28th instant, with some enclosed observations upon the Bill for Revenue. I have, according to your Grace's directions, sent them this day to Mr. Solicitor.

There are doubtless many mistakes in the ground-work of that discourse, but that which upon the whole matter takes most with me is this:—The people of this kingdom (as of all others) will be unwilling to part with their moneys, but when they see a kind of necessity, or at least some great occasion for doing it; but when they shall find themselves supported by such popular arguments as these seem to be against their giving any money, and these objections received and countenanced in England, I doubt it may have that

effect which may in a great measure disappoint those expectations which your Grace might reasonably enough have promised yourself from the meeting of the Parliament, and if so what reflections will then be made upon your Grace is easily foreseen. Your Grace will be pleased to consider this, when you shall have those observations more authentically transmitted unto you.

I humbly acknowledge your Grace's great favour in that advice which you are pleased to send me as to my own particular. I shall wholly submit myself to your Grace's judgment, and shall expect what a little time may produce of change or alteration upon such a sudden determination as that seems to have been. I am told by Denny Muschamp that His Majesty hath been already pleased upon my Lord Longford's application to him to take it into his consideration, and to express himself very unpleasingly upon that order.

I fear the condition of Tangier may prove desperate if the Alcade hath already invested it with an army of 10,000 men, as is reported by some merchants who came thence very lately, thus my letters tell me out of England. I need make no paraphrase unto your Grace upon the condition of these times. I pray God amend them or prepare us all to undergo what in His displeasure He shall think fit to lay upon us. I heartily pray for your Grace's happiness. I am advertised that the whole body of Adventurers intend to petition against a Parliament here.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, August 31. London.—This afternoon the Committee for Irish Affairs sat and did not only receive Sir James Shaen's long paper of objections against the Bill for additional duties, but also read the Bill paragraph by paragraph in his presence and heard him to every paragraph. He does not only object against the duties themselves, but also against the manner of levying every one of them. The Committee have ordered your Grace a copy of his paper, which was too voluminous to be transcribed this night, but it will ready be to be sent by Saturday's packet. Their Lordships have appointed Thursday to conclude their resolutions upon the Bill for granting the 200,000*l.*, to which my Lord Essex resolves then to speak to that Bill. His objection against it is because it is a Land Tax, which he thinks will lie too heavy upon the poor, whereas they would have been eased if the supply had been by the way of subsidy according to the old method of England. Mr. Sheriff Bethell is said to have a discovery made to him of a new plot of the Papists designed to be executed this next month by massacre upon the Protestants. It is doubtful whether the King will be here to-morrow at Council. I do not hear that the state of my Lord Ranelagh's accounts is yet arrived here, and if it be not sent to my Lord President, his Lordship will take it in dudgeon.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680, August 31. Kilkenny.—You will find by mine of Saturday last by the post that I thought it impossible but that my Lord Longford would have given yourself an account of what he writ so largely of to me, in what you are most, if not particularly concerned, and cannot imagine why his lordship should fancy that your Grace dwells here. By my last it appears that I do not differ in my opinion from your friends in England as to your Grace's conduct in case His Majesty should for other reasons be forced to comply with those lords that put him upon so insignificant and so unjust and mean an expedient, only I differ from my Lord of Longford where he advises that Mr. Muschamp should inform whence it may be more reasonably taken. I am much confirmed in my opinion that your Grace should not gratify your ill willers by giving up the Seal on this occasion (if the King should be prevailed upon in the matter) by the certainty of the Parliament's sitting so soon [] *two lines have been rendered illegible at this point by fire*, resign it with more honour at least I am sure [is] worth your Grace's consideration, and I could wish you would take one journey more hither, that we may advise together, after I have shewn your Grace all that I can collect from the intelligence I have or shall receive. As to a Parliament here I give over the thoughts of it, the rulers at Council being so much against it, and so angry with us for offering at supplying the King as to set on Sir James Shaen, whose talent is proper for troubling affairs and little else. I see by Captain Stone's letter he would fain ingratiate himself with you and magnify his own power, but I believe him to be the sole contriver of all. My Lord Ranelagh was come to London, but that night the post came away. I send your Grace with those you sent me, my Lord of Longford's to me, which you will be pleased to return by the first conveniency. [The Earl] of Cork has been ill of the gout and so it is uncertain when he will be able to take his journey for England.

ORMOND to HENRY COVENTRY.

1680, September 1. Kilkenny.—I have had a full account of the proceedings about the Irish Bills and Parliament, and must conclude that those who would not have one called here till that in England hath sat have gotten the victory. I was in hope that those who were against our Parliament might yet be esteemed my friends, however they might pity mine and this Council's weakness, and rest upon Sir James Shaen's probity and wisdom. I am sure those that were for it are my friends, and I hope still all the other are not my enemies. Tho' I am taught that a witness in some cases is the more credible for being of ill fame, yet till now I had not learnt that an undertaker in matters of this other nature was more to be relied upon for it. I desire still you will let my Lord

Longford see the place you mention, for till after October it is not certain I shall have no use of it.

ORMOND to EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, September 1. Kilkenny.—I was fain to send your Lordship's of the 21, as I take it to my Lord Primate, his Grace having had a worse account of his part in the suspension designed than that you gave him when that was projected. I suppose it was believed that my payments of 5,000*l.* a year did continue, but it falls out otherwise, and the blow falls beside me. My Lord Chamberlain having taken the pains to give me some account of the proceedings upon the Bills, I have made him such a return of my sense of the matter in general, and something I have said of Sir James Shaen's paper, to which I must refer you, if his Lordship be not gone to Euston: if he be, I have furnished Mr. Secretary Jenkins with an extract of it which will serve the turn. Whether my Lord be at London or no I desire your Lordship to find means to let him know about the 15th of this month a servant of mine shall be at Chester with the best hawk I yet have flying, and if she be put into a skilful hand, I hope she will please him; she is inward, that is she will follow the company, and yet she flies in a good place. Your Lordship says you mean to prevent the Michaelmas storms, if so we may expect you and my grandson together.

ORMOND to COLONEL EDWARD COOKE.

1680, September 1. Kilkenny.—It was the 27 of the last month before I received yours of the 7th at Carrick, and it was but time little enough to make me fit to make a return to the later part of yours; besides my wife was not with me, and I advise with her in all affairs that are domestic or that relate to our family, of which the youth you mention in your very obliging proposition is now the principal hope; and in the first place I desire you will give my very hearty thanks to those gentlemen that are in trust with you for concurring with you in the overture, to any part whereof I have no objection. I have a great value for the family, I take your word for the person, and I consider the alliance is in a part of England where I wish in such a way to refresh my ancient relation to many families there, so that if I hasten not to drive it on it is in consideration of the young lady, my desire being that she especially and whoever else shall come into my family may be happy in as many circumstances as is possible. The youth was but fifteen years of age in April last, and if this be the lady my Lord Conway was said to pretend to, he must have been at least as much too old for her as my grandson is too young, and yet that must be enough to make it unreasonable she should stay for him till he shall be made fitter for the conversation and conduct of a wife. I have sent for him over to me, that I may myself make some

judgment of his improvement in three years' absence, being unwilling to depend upon the relation of others who may desire to mitigate my grief for the loss of the father by giving me too favourable a character of the son. When you have informed me of the age of the lady, and when I have seen the youth, I shall be better able to give you my sense with the certainty and freedom necessary betwixt friends upon such occasions; till then be pleased to receive my acknowledgements for the sense you express of the affliction I am in, and for your early endeavour to lessen it.

PRIMATE BOYLE TO ORMOND.

1680, September 1. Blessinton.—I have received the honour of your Grace's of the 30th of the last, and with it the enclosed from my Lord Longford, which according to your Grace's directions, I return herewith. Mr. Muschamp in his letters to me gives me not the least hint of proposing any such expedient as is intimated by my Lord Longford. I had rather lose my salary than to retrieve it upon such terms, and I hope he will not offer at any such thing; it were not only very unhandsome in reference to my present circumstances, but very unjust. And indeed it is hard for me to guess at any expedient that may set me right in the opinion of the world, but that the King would not allow it, because he judged it unreasonable to have it done.

I this day received the enclosed from Captain Stone. Your Grace will see what he now writes upon that matter. I presume to send it to your Grace because it seems to comply with your Grace's opinion that he endeavours to magnify himself and friends, while some of them are suggested to be the greatest contrivers; but one packet or two will let us see the full result of this matter, and then I shall be ready to attend your Grace's summons upon what occasion soever you shall be pleased to command me, but I am somewhat unwilling to appear over busy in this affair, lest I should be thought to be overconcerned, and to put a greater stress upon it than indeed I do.

I find by my Lord Longford's that he being demanded by the Council whether the Farmers in Ireland were consulted with about the Bill of Revenue, that neither his lordship nor my Lord Granard could affirm they were, but if I am not greatly mistaken all the money Bills were put into their hands and particularly into Captain Stone's, and they were heard to object what they pleased against them before they were transmitted by your Grace. But I am clearly of your Grace's opinion that since such considerable persons in England oppose our Parliament, that your Grace's indifferency in the matter will the soonest convince them of their mistake. While you contend earnestly for it, it will be supposed by some, at least alleged by your enemies, that you have some private interest of your own besides the King and kingdom's service, which

begets your importunity. Most men make judgment of affairs according to their own principles.

ORMOND to SIR JOHN TEMPLE.

1680, September 1. Kilkenny.—When you have read over your brother's letter to me and the copy of my answer to him, you will have most of what I am able to say at this time upon the sad subject of my son's death, and something on that of a Parliament here. It is long since it might be discovered that the inclinations against it would be too hard for those for it, much less wit and policy than has been employed would serve to obstruct it, and even to make me indifferent in the matter, but that the offer at it should procure me enemies and give them advantage is hard. The short and the only answer I think I shall give to Sir James Shaen's paper is that I can find nothing in it but what is either impertinent or untrue, but as it is, it has given some colour by what was determined before, and he loses no ground by exposing his extravagancies. I am very sensible of the part you take in the affliction fallen on me and my family, to which I have always found you a real and useful friend. I know you will continue it.

ORMOND to SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE.

1680, September 1. Kilkenny.—If excellent letters from persons of all callings and conditions from the King down to the lowest of those I correspond with condoling with me the death of my son Ossory could have given me immediate and complete consolation, I should be at more ease than I yet feel myself. Your description of your own condition on the like occasion, and the only remedy you have had experience of others is the best state I can hope to be in, with this difference that as you are like to have a longer time to accomplish your cure by forgetfulness, so you are master of stronger faculties to support you than my age and constitution will afford me. It is true when we shall all be in the land where all things are forgotten I shall then rest equally with the best fortified, and thither my journey cannot be long. The province very wisely designed by His Majesty for you will present you with various, and, I think, new objects and diversions, and you will have wherewith to employ you in your charge and leisure besides for observations pleasing to you and profitable to your country, such as you have made in former negociations in other places, and these help to keep out private uncomfortable reflections. I cannot say but that the station I am in forces me to lay aside my particular concerns and the melancholy that belongs to them, but the thoughts that take their place as far as my prospect extends are but miserable comforters, and he who is freed from the sense of a fit of the gout by one of the stone, may be said to be as pleasantly diverted. If I consider the public and would guess

where and when the agitations it labours with will rest and fix, I am lost in an abyss and my thoughts can find no foundation, till I raise them up unto and leave them with the eternal overruling Providence. If I look upon my own part (as that will have a place, say, what we please) I find myself set up as a mark for envious competitors for my place and for such as know and do not like my principles to level at, and if I did consult only my own safety and ease, it is not clear to me where to find it with that honesty and honour I mean to carry with me to my grave. From these roots are produced those envious inquisitions, inquiries and their malicious results you have so kindly intimated to your brother, which I do not remember he has acquainted me with from you, either because he found I had them some other way, or because he was not willing to give me matter of vexation, but I mean to send him your letter to me and at least some part of this. The sentence you gave against the Chief Governor and Council in case the Bills transmitted prove so ridiculously faulty as the endorsements on them and Sir James Shaen's comments make them, is most just, but it must extend further and take in the Judges and the King's learned Counsel and the House of Commons, too, in case they shall give what will destroy them and so many thousand families. But to what or to whose objections soever they have been or shall be exposed, I would have been glad it had not been thought a distinctive character of my friends to be for or against them; since it was I may have leave so to reckon. It might have been remembered that about January last we were commanded to make haste with Bills that they might be on that side by the end of May, and now it is become a crime that we have obeyed, and Sir James Shaen is set up to rummage his magazine of incomprehensible notions for objections. It is true, I hear Sir George Downing is added to him to allay the other's volatileness; when all is done the judgment you make is most rational, and since the calling of a Parliament here has been so long delayed, all this art need not have been used to persuade me that now it may be longer delayed. Sir, I heartily wish you all happiness in your journey to the end of it and in your return.

ORMOND to THOMAS SHERIDAN.

1680, September 1.—I desire your brother may receive my hearty thanks for the information he gives me by you and desire him on proper occasions (which it is left to him to judge of) to continue it. As to a Parliament or no Parliament here, it would be to me indifferent if I did not believe I could serve the King in it; nay, I should be against a Parliament if I consulted only my own present ease, profit or security. The labour will be most mine, I shall be answerable for miscarriages in it, and I shall pay more than any man out of my estate, since I must confess it is as great as any

man's ; but it is an ill sign when ministers of state concur in their wishes and endeavours with the most violent opposers of the prerogative and just rights of the Crown. As to the Government, I easily see the disquiet, envy and danger it brings upon me, and will do from pretenders to it and from such as wish me removed to make the easier way to the accomplishment of their designs against the monarchy, and nothing could persuade me to hold it at this time of my age, going on 70, but that I will never abandon my master or the most dangerous station he can put me into whilst I think myself able to serve him ; and whilst the Crown is so threatened this is my sense and resolution. I look upon Shaen as an instrument made use of to disappoint the King of the benefit he might long since have had by a Parliament, if my advice and earnest solicitation ever since I last landed here could have taken place ; and they have so far prevailed that now it is impossible to call a Parliament here before that in England will be sitting ; and then the agitations there will take up all men's thoughts, and arguments better than Sir James Shaen can furnish will be ready to be laid in the way, so that the issue of things there will be seen and must be patiently awaited.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, September 4. London.—On Thursday night I received the enclosed from my Lord Chamberlain, who engaged me to convey it to your Grace. He went yesterday morning to Euston, where he intends to continue till the King's return from Newmarket. Before his leaving Windsor he had some further discourse with the King about our Parliament there, for which he left him fully resolved and possessed with an aversion to Sir James Shaen's projects, which yet the ministers are as positive to promote, as your Grace will find before I have ended this letter, for I make choice of pursuing the series of things as they were transacted. On Thursday last at the Committee for Irish Affairs the first thing they had before them was the letter to your Grace with Sir James Shaen's objections against the Bill for additional duties enclosed in it, both which are ordered to be sent your Grace by this packet. Sir James thinks he has given such undeniable reasons and arguments against that Bill as will never be answered by your Grace and the Council there, and most of the Lords here seem to be of his opinion. I have not seen his paper, and therefore can say nothing to it. In the next place they resumed the debate upon the Bill for granting 200,000*l.*, etc., when it was again proposed by my Lord Essex and Mr. Hyde that Sir James Shaen should be called in, and it being answered that he had been heard already to that Bill, and their Lordships being convinced then that the objections given in by him in writing against that Bill were too slight and not of weight enough to be sent by their

Lordships to your Grace, it was objected as a very extravagant expense of their time to hear him any more. Mr. Hyde then told their Lordships he had some new matter to offer foreign to that Bill, to which it was replied it would be time enough then to hear Sir James to that after their Lordships had come to a determination upon that Bill, which opinion prevailing they proceeded upon it, and after some debate they came to this resolution: That on Thursday next, or the next time His Majesty was present here in Council, this Bill should be reported to His Majesty with those amendments whereof I formerly gave your Grace an account as a fit Bill to be transmitted thither, when His Majesty thought fit to have a Parliament there. Then Sir James Shaen was called in, who out of a paper he had in his hand read a proposition much to the effect I sent your Grace from hence this time twelve month, vizt. :—That only by a better management of the Revenue there without intrenching upon the covenants and contracts with the Forths and the late Farmers, or with my Lord Ranelagh or his undertakers, or with the present Farmers, or without any supply from a Parliament, all the King's debts due to both the lists there should be paid, the present establishment should be paid, provision should be made for the ordnance, arms, ammunition, all sorts of military stores and magazines, repairing of forts, building of new forts, a marching train of artillery, building of ships of war for the security of trade: in fine, whatever else should be thought necessary or reasonable for the defence of that kingdom, money should be provided for it, and as good security as London could afford given for performance. But he professed he desired not himself to be an undertaker, and that he proposed this without any design of advantage to himself, but purely for His Majesty's service and the good of that kingdom. It was asked of him how this could possibly be practicable during his Farm, he and his partners having a grant of all the revenue of that kingdom for that time, and whether he intended to make so considerable a present to the King? Mr. Coventry observed to him that this proposition was an absolute contradiction to his former assertions of the poverty of the kingdom and want of cash there, for if the kingdom was not able to pay 50,000*l.* per annum for four years, and that there was not current cash enough in the kingdom to pay the growing revenue and the supply proposed by Parliament (as he had averred), how could his present proposition consist with his former assertions? To this Sir James answered that if their Lordships were pleased to refer the matter of his proposition to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury and such of their Lordships as they thought fit, he did undertake to reconcile his present proposition to his objections against the Bills, and give demonstration that it was practicable. My Lord Arlington hereupon took occasion to tell him that he remembered the time when

my Lord Ranelagh's was magnified and cried up for a glorious proposition, which at first seemed very plausible for His Majesty's service, but upon the experiment has proved much otherwise, he being now found 100,000*l.* in debt to the King. Sir James made answer that he was able to prove that my Lord Ranelagh, etc., had received from the kingdom above 100,000*l.* more than he had paid, so that his appearing to be 100,000*l.* in debt to the King upon the balance of his account was the effect of his mismanagement, and no disappointment in the undertaking, the arrears due to the King from the kingdom having been sufficient to discharge his undertaking. Sir James being commanded to withdraw, their Lordships referred his proposition (as he desired it should be) to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, my Lord President and my Lord Essex, of whose approbation of it he makes not the least doubt, for I had some discourse with him yesterday about it. I confess his discourse is mysterious and unintelligible to me. He says when a child is born it must be maintained, and now that he is brought to bed of this brat he must take care to see it nursed; however, though he apprehends your Grace may not approve of his way of proceeding he professes he has no intention of thwarting your Grace, for whom he owns to have all the honour and duty imaginable. He swears he has entered into no engagement with any man living upon this proposal, and having this twenty years constantly courted your Grace with all humility, assiduity and integrity, though he never received any other returns but slights and contempt, he is yet still desirous to be esteemed your Grace's most humble servant. And if you will please to allow him any place in your esteem and friendship he will be governed in this proposition by your Grace's measures solely, and if your Grace will please by any person living in whom you can confide let him but know in what proportion you would have the sums applied to the particular uses of his undertaking, he will be entirely governed by your Grace's directions in it. He says in all propositions that he has ever acted in the revenue since the King's restoration, he never moved a step till he had first acquainted your Grace with it. And he has always first communicated to your Grace the improvements that were to be made of the revenue, which he presumes may be an undeniable argument of the sincerity of his devotion to your Grace; but he finds he has always been so unfortunate that your Grace would never believe him. He apprehends that the Bills sent over and the usage he has received lately there, notwithstanding the favourable letters in behalf of himself and partners from His Majesty and the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; look like a designed ruin to himself and partners, for prevention of which he is necessitated to embark in this opposition to the Bills, against which he says he would never have objected if he were not convinced that those Acts will prove

destructive to the kingdom. These are the most material points he discoursed to me, which as near as my memory would serve me I have represented to your Grace in his own words. And having done that, I do not pretend to impose upon your Grace's faith, nor to infuse an opinion that he is as omnipotent to carry all his projects as he may fancy himself in this conjuncture, having gained some of your Grace's late friends, but more of your enemies to countenance his proposition. And now he has got it referred to those he desires it is not improbable but they will watch an opportunity to prepossess His Majesty with an opinion that it is very advantageous for his service to put his revenue there in this method, and when they have fixed him in that opinion it shall be referred to your Grace for your approbation, which if you do not give, they will then press for your removal from the Government because of your aversion to so advantageous a proposal, it being impossible for it to be carried on while your Grace is there. These I confess were my reflections (from the experience I had in my own case after my Lord Ranelagh had proposed his undertaking) to my Lord Chamberlain, who notwithstanding is of opinion that your Grace should persist still in your own way, and commanded me to give it to your Grace as his judgment. I had proceeded thus far when I received your Grace's of the 25th instant, which came very seasonably to me, because it will give me a fair opportunity of discoursing once more upon this subject to His Majesty as my Lord Chamberlain desired at parting. And I hope your Grace will pardon me if I shew his Majesty your letter, which I carry with me on purpose to Windsor this morning.

I find Colonel Vernon very uneasy in his mind upon the suit commenced against him in your Grace's name, which he concludes in the opinion of the world looks like a mark of unkindness towards him from your Grace, whose faithful servant he has ever been, and will be to his death, and therefore 'tis the more afflicting to him, because the suit for the trial of those lands may as legally be carried on in Mr. Butler's or Roscoe's name, as in your Grace's. Your Grace may please to remember I have often moved your Grace in this particular, and if for your satisfaction therein you will refer it to the two Lords Chief Justices there whether Mr. Butler may not have as much advantage in the law for the trial of his title to those lands, the suit being in his own name, the colonel will have great content, and think himself much obliged to your Grace's justice therein.

I had forgot to acquaint your Grace that though Sir James Shaen acknowledges your Grace's favour to him and his partners in the late order concerning the interest of their advance money, yet that order will give them little ease because they have contracted to pay Mr. Ryder his money, and if your Grace will not please to enable them to do it by letting them have their

whole arrear of their interest money they must all go to prison, and the expedient he proposes is that if your Grace will allow them to answer this job, which pinches them so severely, to make use of the arrear of their interest, which amounts to 13,000*l.*, they will be content that all their interest from this time forward shall be stopped to the end of their Farm. I submit it to your Grace's judgment whether it be not necessary that my Lord Arran were here in this conjuncture, for most of your Grace's friends and servants are of opinion he might be very useful to your Grace here. My Lord Granard will soon be gone, and I cannot stay long after him, for I must attend my law affairs the next term. And without doubt my Lord Arran's being here when the Parliament meets may be of importance, for he has good interest in my Lord Russell, who will be the leading man in the House of Commons, and his lordship can himself represent the true state of affairs there in the House of Lords.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, September 4. Dublin.—I find nothing by this last packet about the retrenchment of my salary, but what I formerly gave your Grace an account of. By a letter from England I was advertised that the Committee did continue their inspection into our Bills, and that it was supposed they would yet return us some Bills to begin a Parliament, which I confess is now become my dread. They have taken off the authority and reputation of the Government by their objections against our transmission, and it is not now easily foreseen what may be the success of such a meeting. I this day came to Dublin in expectation of meeting my daughter Blessinton, and and I was not unwilling to shew myself in this place at this time that people might not apprehend me affrighted at the storm that threatens me. Here we have abundance of riff-raff news of the change of all the great places both in England and Ireland, but I find no ground for these reports, and therefore shall not trouble your Grace with the particulars.

ORMOND to JOHN FELL, BISHOP OF OXFORD.

1680, September 4. Kilkenny.—When I took the liberty to inform my Lord Chamberlain of my intention to send for my grandson over to me I had so many letters of public concern to write and was so ill set for the exercise that I could not at the same time give your Lordship an account of it. What induces me to it is that I may myself get some acquaintance with the youth and be able to make some judgment of his temper and inclinations, and the best I can fit his future course to it. Besides I thought it some sort of expedient to reconcile the differing advices I have received concerning him from those that I am sure agree in their kindness to me and my family. The testimony your Lordship has given of

yours would require more and other acknowledgments than you may be willing to receive, but I beseech you to allow me to assure you that I shall ever have a thankful remembrance of it.

SIR JOHN TEMPLE TO ORMOND.

1680, September 4. Dublin.—I received lately from my Lord Primate by your Grace's direction a copy of Sir James Shaen's observations on the Bill that was transmitted from here for raising 200,000*l.*, which seem to be a great many, but are indeed but two, one that Ireland is very, very poor and not able to pay any tax besides the ordinary revenue, to prove which there are about 25 several heads; and the other is that by this Bill the Farmers may be taxed for the rent that they pay the King, which is the most extravagant fancy that ever entered into any man's head. He concludes with an offer to propose something that may accomplish the ends designed without any Act of Parliament, which I suppose is intended to bring on some new project of his about the revenue. I find by a letter that I since received from your Grace, that you have resolved to make the best and shortest answer that can be to this paper, for it certainly neither requires nor deserves any other than that which your Grace designs to it. I cannot but be very much concerned at the usage your Grace meets with on the other side, whereby it is plain that nothing that you can do will be free from exception, though I thought the sending over this Bill had been one of the things that could not possibly have been objected against, especially at Court, where your Grace, I believe, is the first man that ever was found fault with for endeavouring to get the King too much money.

I find by my brother's letter that he mention[ed so]me things that he hath acquainted me with relating to your Grace, which you have had no notification of from me, whereof I can remember but two: one was concerning some there that aimed at the Government here, which was no more than your Grace I am sure very well knew, and had been for some time the common talk of the town before he writ it to me, and therefore I thought it to no purpose to tell you that, as news from him, which neither your Grace nor anybody else here was ignorant of; the other was something a nicer matter for me to concern myself in, which he left me at liberty to make what use of to your Grace I should think fit, and was about reports that were raised there and wherewith some persons of the best quality he said were endeavoured to be possessed, as if matters were now managed here in the same manner as they were in my Lord Berkeley's and Sir Ellis Leighton's time; but in regard he gave me no particular instances, nor named any of the persons from whom he heard it, and that I knew the matter to be so far from truth, I doubted whether it would be fit for me to say anything to your Grace of so general

an advertisement, and if I have done amiss either in concealing it hitherto or in mentioning it now, I humbly beg your pardon for it, and am very sure that I have done neither out of any design of disservice to your Grace therein. Your Grace may be pleased to remember that not long since I made an humble suit to you for the reversion of the Chief Remembrancer's Office for my son, and your Grace was pleased to tell me that you had not recommended anything of that kind since Mr. Coventry's parting with his place, but that I might apply myself to my Lord Sunderland for it, which I have done, and do send to-night the King's letter for it to Mr. Ellis to be presented to your Grace. I return unto your Grace herewith Sir James Shaen's paper, together with my brother's letter.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, September 4. Kilkenny.—In the performance of the King's commands for the sending several recruits out of his army here to the garrison of Tangier, I have met with some difficulty from the absence of many officers, from the want of experience of others, and from the corruption and backwardness of some, of which I have and shall take such notice as that the King's pleasure on the like occasions for the time to come shall be more readily put in execution. And that it may be so it is not only necessary that those who have been wanting in their duty should be reprov'd and punished, but that such as have been ready and diligent should be encouraged by being commended, and as occasion offers advanced and rewarded. Amongst these latter the Lord Shannon, Governor of Cork, has with extraordinary care and prudence performed all that was required from him, and that with such evidence of his affection and zeal to the King's service that it may deserve His Majesty's taking particular notice thereof, either by letter immediately to himself, or by laying his commands on me to let him know his gracious acceptance of his performances, but that the letter contain nothing of any other subject.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, September 4. Whitehall.—I shall endeavour to be as good as my word in sending your Grace Sir James Shaen's observations upon the Bill of Additional Duties, notwithstanding I know that the Clerk of the Council is ordered to send a copy of them to your Grace. The major part of my Lords were of opinion on Thursday and voted that the Bill of Supplies should be reported to His Majesty as fit to pass with those amendments that their Lordships had to offer. The rest of the time after this debate and vote was over was spent in hearing Sir James Shaen's project, how to do tantamount to all that the Bill for the 200,000*l.* pretends to do without any such Bill, but by a legal improvement of the present revenue. Tho' he was not brief, yet he was somewhat obscure. He had a paper in his hand for the help of his memory but

when he was desired to leave it behind him, he excused himself for the present, but when he comes next I suppose he will have a writing prepared. My Lords have yet done nothing upon the Bills of Settlement; the Report of the Supply Bill must be first made to the King, who will be in town on Thursday next.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, September 4. Audley End.—When I wrote to your Grace on the 2nd telling you the resolution I had taken to send Mr. Mulys to Oxford to help the removal of my Lord of Ossory from thence, Mr. Ellis was in the country ignorant of your Grace's purpose concerning him. Returning home to London he hath taken the pains to follow me hither to be particularly instructed towards the journey designed him. All I could tell him was you had wished in your letter your grandson might make haste into Ireland before the storms of Michaelmas, that you had ordered he should conduct him thither and that I had ordered Mr. Mulys to carry money with him to Oxford to facilitate his remove from thence and to perform his journey into Ireland, which should be put into his hands, which trust he submits to, and promises to discharge with all possible care. In requital of which I hold myself obliged to let your Grace know he hath served my Lord deceased these three years past with much diligence, application and discretion; that he was so sensible of it in his life as to express it often to me and to desire me to join with him in getting some good turn for him of his Majesty, that might enable him to live comfortably the rest of his life. Now as to any employment about your grandson more than the conducting him safely to you, I will presume to tell you his talent lies not that way, viz.: neither to be his tutor nor his Governor. For this he must have a man not only well stiled for his behaviour, but his nature will want one that may execute that place with some authority and resolution, even to the displeasure of the young man, who to deal freely with your Grace will need it for some years yet. For the teacher he must have a plain preceptor who may teach him the Latin tongue under the authority of the Governor, and in a plainer method than he was put into in the University, the want of which perhaps is the principal cause of his backwardness therein. Now because it was my fortune once to enlarge myself in my discourse upon this subject to Mr. Ellis, I pray he may teach his tutor in a few words how my young Lord is to be taught, after which I leave him to your Grace's bounty and good will, which he deserves, and I am confident will submit to with all cheerfulness and duty.

ORMOND to EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, September 6. Kilkenny.—Your Lordship's of the 28 of August to my son Arran seems to import that some

Bills might be soon transmitted in order to the calling of a Parliament here, but what Bills is not mentioned. I know any return will serve for a meeting, but I hope it is not believed that any Bills will serve to procure supplies. I am sure I never gave encouragement to such a belief. It is all the reason in the world that care should be taken on that side that nothing should pass here prejudicial to the trade of England, but if it prove or be thought that Ireland's being above water hurts England, some invention must be found to sink it, for burn it will not till the world shall burn, to my certain knowledge and experience. What else to say to that point I know not till I know wherein those Bills encroach upon the English traffic. If a Parliament shall be called, Sir James Shaen's ridiculous paper countenanced as it is will be admirable topics for speeches against giving of money; and to be sure that they shall prevail, there must be joined to them a refusal of all laws that may secure interests and improve manufacture. Upon these terms I never did, never shall, advise the calling of a Parliament and am sorry your Lordship puts yourself to the pains to travail so earnestly in it. When the King and his Council on that side shall think fit to command it, I am ready to obey, and if my opinion of the success shall be required I shall give it faithfully, but cannot do it pertinently till I have had time to consider what shall be returned to us. It is no small discouragement to us to find that Sir James Shaen's arguments are so convincing that all the Lords at first sight without hearing anything on the other side conclude them to be unanswerable. Judgments were not used to be passed so in cases of less moment, and where men of less quality were concerned in more than ordinary interest, namely, in their credit and sobriety. For if the Bills we sent be liable to all the faults laid to their charge, it must be concluded we were not in our right wits when we sent them. Your Lordship and my Lord Granard may have recovered yours and therefore I desire you would hasten over to try if you can bring us to ours.

REV. PETER DRELINCOURT to ORMOND.

1680, September 7. Oxford.—*Quelque rude que me soit la perte que je fais en étant séparé de Monseigneur v^{otre} petit fils cependant je la reçois avec toute la soumission et le respect que je dois aus ordres de v^{otre} grandeur, d'ont la sagesse et la bonté ne peuvent et ne veulent ordonner rien que très justement et qui ne soit pour le bien et pour l'avantage de mon cher Seigneur, ce que je dois préférer au mien propre and a ma satisfaction particulière. Mais Monseigneur après tous les mauvais offices que la malice and l'intérêt m'a rendus aupres de v^{otre} grandeur, oseray-je prendre la liberté de dire qu'elque chose en ma faveur et de reduire à présent mon employ passé à trois chefs; le 1er qui regarde les etudes de my lord, le 2d sa conduite, et le 3e qui se rapportera à sa dependence.*

Pour ses études son tuteur en a toujours été le maître et le directeur, cela luy appartenant alors, et j'ay toujours travaillé de tout mon pouvoir et avec tout le zèle imaginable, à ayder et à pousser mon cher mylord dans le chemin que le dit tuteur luy a fait prendre, et personne ne contredit icy cette verité.

Quant à sa conduite Mr. nôtre bon Evêque a la connoissance duquel rien de ce qui concernoit mylord n'a été caché, sayt fort bien que M. vôtre petit fils a toujours gardé regulierement ses heures d'exercices aussey bien qu'aucun autre dans le Collège et que je ne l'ay jamais mené faire aucune visite, ou a aucun divertissement hors du Collège sans sa connoissance et sa permission. Et je laisse a la justice de cet excellent prélat quelque severe qu'elle soit a prononcer mon arrest sur ce sujet. Pour ce qui regarde la dépence vôtre grandeur a été amplement informée de sa nature et de la maniere d'ont elle s'est faite ainsy Monseigneur vôtre grandeur m'obligeroit infiniment, si elle vouloit me faire la grace de m'apprendre la cause particulière de mon malheur. C'est assez monsieur que je perde mon cher seigneur sans faire en même temps une autre perte que je ne puis porter, qui est celle de l'honneur de vôtre précieuse bienveillance que j'estime par dessus tout ce que je possède au monde.*

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, September 7. London.—I waited upon His Majesty on Sunday last at Windsor, where I met with a fair opportunity of shewing to him your Grace's letter to me of the 25th of August, which he read every word and asked me what were the kind of proposition Sir James made to your Grace the last year, which I told His Majesty as well as I could remember; and this introduced a discourse of his last proposals, for which I do not find His Majesty has any inclination, for he did speak of him with no respect or reverence not only to me, but also in the afternoon to Mr. Secretary Jenkins. But Mr. Hyde (who is resolved to support him with all the credit he has with the King) seems to like his proposals better than a supply by a Parliament, and is of the opinion his methodizing the revenue will be more effectual to answer the King's service and less oppressive to the kingdom than the 200,000*l*. But what the proposition is, or the method Sir James has projected to manage the revenue by, he has not yet thought fit to declare. But I suppose by Friday next when the Council sits it will appear in its own colours, and then we shall know whether the Parliamentary or projecting way will be preferred. As to your Grace's own particular, His Majesty was pleased to repeat to me the very same assurances of his favour and kindness to your Grace, which some time since my Lord Chamberlain gave your Grace. And he added that he would do whatever was within his power for your Grace's and your family's support. I shall communicate to Sir Stephen Fox

* The orthography of the original has been followed in this transcript.

Mr. Secretary Jenkins and Sir Edw. Deering those observations your Grace sent me relating to the Farmers, for the rest are too much Sir James's friends to have things of that kind communicated to them.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680, September 8.—Your grandson, my Lord Ossory, according to your command now attends upon you, and I hope will both return with all safety and also so appear before you as to be a comfort in some proportion answerable to your late cause of sorrow. I am exceedingly concerned that my Lord should at this critical time of his life lay such a foundation for knowledge as may hereafter stand him in stead to all the great and good purposes for which God and nature have designed him, and therefore hope that your Excellency will free him from the flatteries and divertisements of the Court, and pernicious infusions of servants, and engage him to industry and application of mind, which he will hardly retain amidst glittering and pleasurable diversions. I should have thought myself exceedingly happy if I could have served your Excellency and family in this great occasion, but since Providence has made another disposal, I shall labour not to be wanting in my endeavours in the behalf of your relation, my Lord Clancarty, who remains with me, from whose tractable disposition I have great encouragement to believe that all things will succeed and prosper with him. I add my prayers for the return of all comfort and blessing to your Excellency and family, Mr. Drelincourt being fearful that he may have been represented disadvantageously to your Excellency, and having desired me to express my thoughts of him, I humbly declare that tho' he may not have been a skilful manager nor happy in preserving authority in his station, yet I take him for a faithful, diligent and virtuous man, who has not willingly failed in the discharge of his trust.

EARL OF CHESTERFIELD to ORMOND.

1680, September 9. Bretby.—Could I ever be capable of any omission either in my duty or respects to your Grace, I should never forgive myself, but sometimes the accidents that in this world befall us are of so high a nature that the naming them is a renewing of misfortune, and this consideration has kept me thus long from saying anything to your Grace on a subject that nothing but heaven can make me mention without murmuring, though I do not doubt but that your Grace, who in the many changes of this life has always expressed a fortitude of mind above the rest of men, will continue the same in this fiery trial and receive in it that assistance from above which is most passionately wished your Grace by, etc.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, September 11. Whitehall.—It is with all the humble thanks possible that I acknowledge the honour of two from your Grace, the one of the first, the other of the fourth current, with an extract of your Grace's letter to my Lord Chamberlain in relation to a Parliament and the Bill of Supplies that is now before my Lords of the Committee for Ireland. That extract had so much of demonstration in it that I thought it a right I was not to deny to your cause to show it and read it (as I have this day) to His Majesty and his R.H. His Majesty appeared to me to be fully convinced of the reason of it, and of the just resentment in it as to his carriage that embroils the affair. The Duke had leisure to enter (as he did) into a closer discussion of it, and of a great man's part that appears much, and yet would not be thought to have the same view with Sir James Shaen. Sir William Temple had been but a little before with the Duke, and had done your Grace a great deal of justice, as he does in all the Committees of Ireland that he appears in. The Duke told me he was very well pleased to find Sir William Temple so just to and zealous for your Grace. I must confess the perfecting and sending back these Bills should in all reason go on with better speed, and I am heartily troubled to see it. Sir James Shaen was on Thursday last to expose his project in the Treasury Chamber before the Lords of the Treasury, my Lord Chancellor, my Lord President, my Lord of Sunderland, my Lord of Essex, and myself. He had two or three papers that he began with. Then he broke off from reading them and discoursed his proposition, but he was not so successful either way as to be thoroughly understood. My Lords were forced to adjourn the debate till Monday, and he hath that time to consider how he may express himself more intelligibly. I could not get a copy of the papers he produced, nor will I take upon me to divine any more of his *project* than that it is a *management* he would be at. Some things he did ingenuously enough profess to conceal, at least to endeavour it, from my Lords. I should tire your Grace to no purpose if I should essay to repeat his discourse. The report that my Lords shall make of his project will be the best account that I can hope to give your Grace. I cannot imagine that his project should bring us to lay aside a certain supply and the calling of a Parliament, yet that is not only the consequence but the aim of his reasonings. One thing we must endeavour, that is, to get his Majesty to enjoin the Committee to be ready to report the Bills that are fit to make a session (as soon as a Parliament can be called) by that time His Majesty comes back from Newmarket, which will be ('tis thought) about three weeks hence. After that my Lords will have no moment free, the Parliament will be so near, which I beseech God to give His blessing upon. There are cabals already working to disturb it.

ORMOND to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680, September 11. Kilkenny.—I am tempted by the fair weather to take a journey to Dublin and intend to be there on Wednesday next. Tuesday night I mean to lie at Grangebegg, and if your Grace pleases to take you with me to Dublin if you please to meet me on the road Wednesday morning. In the meantime I send your Grace Sir James Shaen's exceptions to the Bill of Additional Revenue, but do confess I have not yet read them myself. I think it will be found in my papers and perhaps in the Council books that we were commanded to send such a Bill, and if I am not mistaken such a Bill was sent in the first transmission, and as I think upon Sir James Shaen's consent if not promotion. However, if it shall be wholly laid aside, I know not why it should grieve us, and consequently why we should contend for it, only it may be fit to show that our part was purely obedience, and that what we sent was not so irrational as seems to be thought. By several things in the transaction of that affair in England it seems to me that the having of no Parliament here is the thing aimed at, else it is not credible that Sir James Shaen's fortune, reputation, and talent can be so unknown as that any serious weight could be put upon his advises or offers. I know not therefore why there should not be a short history collected of all that is past concerning the Parliament in England and here which may contain the grounds of desiring one, namely, the security of the Government the Protestants and Protestant religion in time of plottings and contrivances by the Papists against them, which was only to be done by the providing of arms and ammunition, building and repairing of forts and garrisons, and by making laws to free both houses of Parliament from Papists, and the kingdom from Bishops and regulars, the most dangerous of them. Upon these heads much may be seasonably said from the Council here to that in England and to consider whether this may not be more fitly said is a great part of my errand to Dublin, though I will own my kindness to be such that I go likewise with some expectation to see my grandson there shortly and to bring him with me. I find Sir James Shaen has at last offered that he will propose a way to do all that was designed to be done with the 200,000*l.*, and this by legal ways without a Parliament; and to this extravagant offer so much count is given that His Majesty is desired to refer the project to the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury and my Lord President and my Lord of Essex, the issue whereof I suppose will be the taking the penalty of the act for sowing of flax, relief and double duty on imported commodities, of which the two first are impracticable, but with the highest discontent of the people of all sorts and the last illegal. Being I hope to see your Grace so soon, I know not why I trouble you or myself with all this stuff, but the letter may serve for a memorandum.

EARL OF LONGFORD TO ORMOND.

1680, September 12. London.—Sir James Shaen's proposals appear to find great favour with the King, accordingly the best policy for the Lord Lieutenant would be to temporise, as it would be injudicious to declare openly against Sir James's scheme for settling the Establishment, when His Majesty appears to be so fond of it; such opposition would supply a good pretext to Ormond's enemies for urging his dismissal from the Irish Government. The Lord Lieutenant has given the King fair warning, and he cannot be justly blamed if the latter is deceived a second time.

Mr. Nash has come to the writer with a message from Sir James Shaen to Ormond, desiring to be acquainted with the latter's wishes as to the persons to be placed on and left out of the Establishment, and the sums to be expended on arms, fortifications, etc. Lord Longford thinks it would be no harm if Ormond would favour him with his views on this proposal, even though nothing resulted from the negotiation.

As to his own return to Ireland, Lord Longford thinks it will not be too soon, except he can shortly settle a money matter with the East India Company. He has informed the Lord Chamberlain of the despatch of the hawk and thinks he will send his falconer to Chester without much delay. After a tribute to Lord Granard's good conduct in Ormond's business, he speaks of the petition from Dublin re Whitehaven coals. Sir J. Lowther's tenants in that place have been at the bottom of that petition, which has been scouted by the English Council.

[*Abstract.*]

SIR L. JENKINS TO ORMOND.

1680, September 14. Whitehall.—On Monday Sir James Shaen had a full hearing before His Majesty at the Treasury Chamber, the same Committee that I mentioned in my last being present. He had not the luck so to clear his points as to satisfy His Majesty, who, I perceive, makes the same judgment of the person as your Grace doth. His Majesty will hear him again to-morrow upon the same project, with the assistance of those of his Privy Council of Ireland that are here in town. To that end my Lords of Longford, Granard, Ranelagh, and Sir William Temple, as also Sir Robert Hamilton (whom His Majesty himself named to be joined with them, as having a good estate of his own and an inspection into the Revenue) have summons to attend the King in the Treasury Chamber. I humbly take leave to enclose herewith the papers that Sir James gave in on Monday; the Lords of the Council of Ireland have copies of them and will, I doubt not, take that account of them that they deserve. The Elector of Brandenburg having lately set out some ships (7 or 8) from the Port of Pillao that he hath upon the Baltic for a merchandizing voyage (as was

pretended) to the coast of Guinea ; those ships being come to the height of Ostend took out of that very port a merchant ship of about 300 tons belonging to Spanish subjects. This alarms the Dutch and us lest the Elector should be acted to do this by some that design to disturb the public peace. His pretence upon Spain can be but for subsidies promised in the last war. His Majesty upon this complaint of the Spanish Ambassador hath sent orders to a man-of-war now at Plymouth to set out and cruise in order to meet the Prince of Parma to advertise him of this incident and to take him on board, if he please, to prevent him from falling into those hands. This I thought it my duty to advertise your Grace of, lest anything should happen upon the coasts or in the ports of that kingdom that might occasion to your Grace any trouble. Both these parties are His Majesty's friends, but we are in a strict tie of alliance with Spain ; nay, we are under an obligation to the Crown not to suffer the peace to be broken upon His Majesty's seas, not, especially, in his chambers and ports.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, September 14. London.—Yesterday in the morning His Majesty spent three hours at least in the Treasury Chamber upon Sir James Shaen's project about the better management of the revenue of that kingdom. a copy whereof Mr. Secretary Jenkins has promised me to send your Grace, otherwise I had done it by this night's packet. His Majesty has not yet come to any resolution upon it, and upon Mr. Secretary Jenkins' motion copies of his four several papers were sent to my Lord Ranelagh, my Lord Fitzharding, my Lord Granard, myself, and Sir Robert Hamilton to consider of them, and we are ordered to attend His Majesty to-morrow in the afternoon by four of clock at the Treasury Chamber. Upon perusal of the papers I find so great uncertainty in them for want of filling up the blanks in the covenants from His Majesty to the contractors and in the covenants from the contractors to His Majesty that till these blanks are filled up no reasonable man can fairly object to them. And therefore when we are called in if any questions are asked us by the Lords of the Committee, we are resolved in the first place to desire that Sir James Shaen would withdraw himself out of the clouds by filling up his blanks and make his propositions plain and certain, and then we will furnish His Majesty with the best observations for his service that occur to us, and then we shall humbly offer to His Majesty that he would please to send the proposition when it is made plain, easy and certain to your Grace and the Council there, who have the assistance of the judges and his learned counsel, and not to lay the burden solely upon us, who are not furnished with law enough to judge of the Farmers' present contract nor how far this new proposal may interfere with it to His Majesty's

prejudice and disadvantage, which we presume carries so much reason with it that it will not be denied. In the mean time though the cheat is very visible, we must not offer at the discovery of it till we have fixed him by filling up of his blanks and obtained a full explanation of the covenants on both sides, and then we resolve to lay him open in his colours. The truth is he bids fair for my Lord Ranelagh's employment, which your Grace will easily imagine is no part of my concern. There will this night go to your Grace His Majesty's letter for making my Lord Drogheda of the Privy Council, which has been effected by my Lord Sunderland at the solicitation of Sir Robert Reading. The Duke has out of his friendship for your Grace and family so far interposed that His Majesty has consented my Lord Granard should be Lieut. General and my Lord Arran Marshal, and I suppose my Lord Arran has acquainted your Grace with the terms agreed on between their Lordships. The King and Duke make an end of their buckhunting this day with Mr. Secretary Coventry, and to-morrow the Duke dines with the artillery officers. The Prince Elector is dead and his son (the now Prince) is hastening from hence home to take possession of his principality. The Elector of Saxony is also dead, and by this means two Garters are void. Sir James Shaen is now for the meeting of a Parliament there (but without giving of money) to pass such Acts as may be for the good of the country.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, September 15. Highnam.—This answers your Grace of the first inst. as far as I am at present capable of it. In the first place it acknowledges the great sense of the obligation your Grace hath been pleased to lay on me in pardoning the great presumption I was guilty of in making so partial an overture for my niece [Poulett], but seriously if goodness and ingenuity with comeliness enough (in my eye) may pass for part of payment, her portion will not be inconsiderable; as for the rest thereof my last gave so punctual an account that I need make no repetition. I considered my little Lord's age when first this motion came into my mind, for the honour I have so long had of being one of the domestics made me capable of shooting near the mark, nor can I at this time be punctual in giving an account of her age, only I am sure (notwithstanding that grave Lord's pretensions) there is little difference between them in that point, and that only in weeks, not a year, and I believe she the younger of the two; but of that more punctually in my next, for since your Grace's pen hath dropt so many encouraging circumstances, I shall neither despair of my niece's happiness nor be wanting in my endeavours to promote it. I dare be responsible for the endowments of her mind, that they will deserve my Lady's approving and improving, and that they are very capable of the latter. As for those of her body, every one's own eyes

are their judges; as for other circumstances my last spoke her part and as for your Grace's there will be no difficulty when it shall be ripe for that discourse, for you shall in all those particulars be your own carver. I shall transmit the substance of your Grace's letter to all my partners in the trust; all five are great adorers of your Grace's, and I confess I do not know any other proposition of this kind wherein there would have been so universal a concurrence. I can lay my hand on my heart and with a safe conscience say when I aimed in this proposal at the honour of my Lord Poulett's family, I equally considered the happiness of your Grace's, which if I did not believe very consistent with the other, I would as vigorously oppose as now I do zealously propose.

CHIEF JUSTICE KEATING to ORMOND.

1680, September 17. Galway.—On my arrival here late this night I met the honour of your Grace's letter of the 13th from Kilkenny with the copies of Sir James Shaen's volumes (for such they are) against the two money bills. They will require more time than I am or shall be master of whilst I stay here to read them over, and much more to understand them, though I am apt to believe the substance of them (if any they have) might have been fairly written in the title of the paper they now fill. I shall take little rest until I have finished here and waited on your Grace at Dublin. In the interim I presume most humbly to advise your Grace to deliver copies of these observations to Captain Stone in private and to desire his on them, which I am sure he will well faithfully and honestly give your Grace, and by that time I shall attend your Grace at Dublin.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, September 18. Whitehall.—The King having been pleased to grant me a pension of 3,000*l.* a year for seven years to begin after the determination of the Earl of Feversham's, I desire your Grace will give order for despatching the patent when the letter is brought to you, which I have sent to Mr. Solicitor to attend your Grace with. I cannot think it will meet with any difficulty, seeing it is the concern of one who will be ready upon all occasions to testify to you and to the world that he is with great truth, etc.

ORMOND to EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, September 18. Dublin.—I have your Lordship's of the 12th and at the same time received one of the 11th from Mr. Secretary Jenkins giving a better account, I believe, of Sir James Shaen's proceedings at the Committee than you could have from Sir James himself or his trumpet Mr. Nash. However, your Lordship mistakes my purpose if you think I set my rest upon baffling his proposition. On the contrary, I wish with all my heart I could believe it could be performed

for so long at least I should have a pleasant delusion. But I cannot give so much credit to it as to employ any of my time, much less give your Lordship the trouble of setting down answers to all his questions ; it will be time enough to make the distributions for ships, arms, ammunition, and forts when the found shall appear. When your Lordship gives me caution how I vainly oppose a project so countenanced and delighted in by powerful men there you do not remember the disposition I am in relation to this Government, or you do not believe it to be really what I told you it was, but it is most certain I would not purchase my continuance in it at the price of a low compliance or of being silent when I think my Master is in danger to be prevailed upon to quit a solid and plain way of coming to his end for a chimerical project, and such I cannot but suspect that in hand will prove. Mr. Secretary Jenkins (to whom I am content your Lordship should show this letter) will have a copy of our joint letter to the Lords of the Council there upon Sir James Shaen's objections against the Bill of Additional Duties. It is some part of our misfortune that serve His Majesty at such a distance that many times the commands we receive and the returns we make are forgotten by the interposition of some more important affair. Hence it is that the rise of that Bill is thought to have been from hence, whereas it was prepared in obedience to absolute and repeated commands, and as much against my declared opinion as it was possible for me to express, preserving the duty and submission I owe to the King's pleasure.

I desire your Lordship would assure Sir John Lowther that if I had known he had been the person concerned in the complaint of this city, he should have been the first man that should have been made acquainted with it, and that I am in all occasions most ready to manifest my value of him. I hope my Lord Granard may arrive here with James, which adding Lord to his present title.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1680, September 18. London.—According to the summons which I gave your Grace an account of in my last, we attended the King in the Treasury Chamber last Wednesday, where Sir James Shaen's proposal was in some measure debated, but there being many blanks in it and many doubtful expression, it was humbly desired that before a full opinion was commanded both those might be filled up and these explained, and some instances were given which showed the necessity of doing it, by which the King was let to see that the goodness of the proposition or otherwise depended wholly on those things. Some of the Lords seemed to be possessed with an opinion that this proposition would advance the revenue 48,000*l.* a year, and conceived that however the blanks were filled, or the other expressions explained, the main of the

proposal could not be thereby much changed, and therefore delivered an opinion concerning the substance of it, the particulars being to be matter of further debates. To this their Lordships were answered that the arrears the Farmers were in was no sign of so extraordinary a bargain, and that though it was believed that the revenue of that kingdom was an improving revenue, yet not so suddenly and in such proportions as this paper seemed to promise, nor was the proposition itself such as it seemed to be understood, the 288,000*l.* a year not being offered as a neat revenue above reprisals, but that poundage and allowances were to be deducted out of it, and that by this means it would be reduced at the best but to the terms it is at now; besides which the proposer would entitle himself to the 60,000*l.*, which the present Farmers are to pay the King at the end of their Farm (within two years) by three monthly payments, so that whatever might be the casual advantage the King would certainly lose so considerable a sum as 60,000*l.*, which they are bound to pay him within about two years. Upon the opening of these things, the result was that Sir James was commanded to perfect his proposition and withal to name his security against the next time he appeared, and those of the Lords who came with so strong an opinion for the proposal seemed to be left with an impression far otherwise, so that by what I can guess by what passed there, and by having spoken with some of the Lords since, this project must be quite another thing than it is before we receive further trouble by it.

This debate being over, the Lords asked some questions about the Bill for increasing the revenue, whether it were likely those additional duties would hinder the payment of those already in collection, as had been objected; to which they were told that thing had been well examined before the Bill was sent over and that no reasonable ground for such fears had appeared, besides that late experience had proved the contrary when a considerable monthly sum was raised without any such prejudice. But that which stuck with the King and Lords was an objection made against the Bill of Settlement by which the King gives up an undoubted right he has to about 6,000*l.* a year quit rents with the arrears and mean profits of all those lands which persons decreed to several quantities of land are in possession of above the quantities decreed without any colour of title, and it was conceived that it was too much to expect that the King at the time that he passed many other acts of grace should withal discharge so great a right for the present, but of 200,000*l.*, which he might well expect for his other condescensions now in proposition.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, Sept. 18. London.—By Tuesday's packet I gave your Grace an account that my Lord Ranelagh, my Lord

Granard and myself, with Sir Cyril Wyche and Sir Robert Hamilton, were ordered to attend His Majesty by the next day at the Treasury Chamber, which we accordingly did ; and Sir James Shaen being called in, the first question my Lord Chancellor asked was [was] what objections we had to make to Sir James Shaen's proposal which he thought we had [had] time to consider, having had the day before copies sent to each of us. My Lord Ranelagh (who by agreement between us was to manage the chief discourse on our side) said that till Sir James Shaen filled up his blanks, and explained what he meant by fees, poundage, and such other allowances, his proposition was so uncertain that neither we nor any other man living could tell what objections to make. My Lord Chancellor replied [that] if in a proposition of so great consequence to His Majesty, which carried the face of so just and considerable advantage, we had not other objections than Sir James filling up the blanks, he was of opinion that His Majesty ought [not] to hesitate one minute in closing with the proposition. To this my Lord Ranelagh said that this proposition was matter of calculation by comparing the present state of His Majesty's revenue, and by the supply of 200,000*l.* proposed by Parliament with the advantage Sir James Shaen offered in his proposal ; and therefore till he filled up his blanks and explained his expressions we could not show His Majesty the difference between His Majesty's present affairs relating to his revenue and this new proposal. For as his blanks were filled up one way the proposal might be better for His Majesty, and as they might be filled up another way His Majesty might be a loser of at least 70,000*l.*, and to demonstrate this he desired Sir James to declare in what time of the year he designed his contract should determine. Sir James answered he intended it should end the first day of May, when my Lord Ranelagh observed to His Majesty that his contract ending in May he would hook in a whole year's hearth-money, which was near 30,000*l.*, and half a year's Crown rent and quit rent, which would amount to about 40,000*l.* more ; and that by their means both the list would for half a year, viz., till Michaelmas, be left without any other provision for their payment than the product of the Customs and the casual revenue ; and he further observed that those two quarters of the Customs were the worst in the whole year, and consequently this would beget a new arrear, and much disorder His Majesty's affairs. Then it was observed to us by my Lord of Essex and Mr. Hyde that for two years yet unexpired of the Farm there was an advance proposed to His Majesty of 48,000*l.*, making for the two years 96,000*l.* Upon this we asked Sir James whether he intended by this proposal to drown the 60,000*l.* he was to pay His Majesty three months after the determination of his present Farm ; to which he answered that he did, resolving to pay all and to receive all. Upon this my Lord Ranelagh

observed to His Majesty that instead of Sir James Shaen paying His Majesty 96,000*l.* in those two years remaining undetermined of the present Farm, Sir James would receive in lieu of it 100,000*l.* For first he would pay himself 60,000*l.*, which was due to His Majesty three months after his Farm determined, then he reckoned for each of those years 12,000*l.* for interest (in his own projected establishment), which was 24,000*l.* more ; and by his own calculation of fees, poundage (both upon the receipts and issues) and other allowances, he might reckon upon 20,000*l.* more. To this plain demonstration, neither Sir James, nor my Lord Essex, nor Mr. Hyde had one word to reply

Next we were asked whether we thought His Majesty's revenue could bear and make good Sir James's proposal. To this my Lord Ranelagh replied that if there were not allowance made for the management, which the Farmers reckoned at 30,000*l.* per annum, it was his opinion His Majesty's revenue could not be made clear to him 288,000*l.* Then he observed to His Majesty that His Majesty's present rent did not amount to more than 240,000*l.* ; and yet Sir James and his partners could not pay that according to their contract, for they were now in so considerable an arrear that if His Majesty would please to take the advantage of the forfeiture upon their breach of covenant, he might justly do it, for they were considerably in arrear of this Farm rent ; and to prove it he produced a certificate (which he received by the last packet) wherein there was a state of their rent due to the last of July, which by the days of grace was not payable till the last of August, by which certificate they were in arrear 49,000*l.*, out of which, allowance being made them for 15,000*l.* the money expended on Rincorran Fort, and 3,000*l.* more which was not placed to account, then their arrear last of July (besides what they owe for the last of August, for which they have time till the last of this month) will be 31,000*l.* In opposition to this Sir James produced a letter from his partners, with an answer from Sir John Champante to several particulars, concerning which they had appealed to your Grace, by which it appeared they ought to have had allowance for about 12,000*l.* To this my Lord Ranelagh replied that it was a state drawn for the month of June, and allowance was made them of all their demands ; but that certificate he produced was for the month of July, at the end of which, after all allowances they pretended to being made them, they owed His Majesty 31,000*l.* Then it was observed by some of their lordships that this debate was foreign to the affair in hand, and misspent His Majesty's time ; whereupon Mr. Hyde proposed Sir James should fill up the blanks in the proposal and explain all the doubtful expressions excepted to by us, and we having copies given us then to give our objections in writing, which was accordingly ordered.

Thus ended the debate upon Sir James's project, after which some of their Lordships discoursed upon the Bills sent over, and particularly of the Bill of Confirmation; upon which my Lord Chancellor and my Lord President observed to His Majesty that not only all cheats in false admeasurements and concealed lands were confirmed, but also His Majesty was debarred from the title he had to concealment of old Crown lands, so that for ought they knew His Majesty gave half a million value for 200,000*l.*, if the Bill were passed. And therefore their Lordships asked us whether we thought the Parliament would pass the Bill of 200,000*l.* without the Bill of Confirmation. I presumed upon this to tell His Majesty that when the subject gave a supply it was a usual method in Parliament for His Majesty to grant acts of grace; and therefore I doubted if the Bill of Supply was not accompanied by the Bill of Confirmation the passing of it would be more difficult. But my Lord Ranelagh was of a contrary opinion, though your Grace may remember when he was in Ireland he thought the Bill of Confirmation necessary. So upon the close their Lordships seemed inclined to believe that the Bill of Supply (to which most of them have a great mind) accompanied by those Bills for the advancement and security of the Protestant religion may be grateful to a Parliament there, and concluded the debate in that opinion to His Majesty.

I had almost forgot to acquaint your Grace that Sir William Temple (whom His Majesty commanded to attend that day) spoke with great warmth and to very good purpose in opposition to Sir James Shaen's project; and according to the best observations I was able to make most of their Lordships are sick of it. And after His Majesty had retired into the garden he did both to my Lord Granard and to Sir William Temple express his dislike of it. And yet Sir James keeps his mettle, swears his proposition shall take place, for it is a self subsisting proposition; and there shall be no Parliament in Ireland, for he both can and will do the King's business without one. I had also almost forgot to acquaint your Grace that we are now asked whether the levying the 200,000*l.* would prejudice the Farm in collection of the King's revenue. To this was answered that during the late Farm there was a tax of 30,000*l.* to make good the supply of the deficiency and the year's value, at the collection of which the late Farmers did not complain, and the condition of Ireland was so much improved since that it could bear a levy of 50,000*l.* per annum better now than it could then one of 30,000*l.*, which demonstration seemed to give satisfaction to their Lordships, though Sir James very untruly said that that tax broke the Forths. We also observed to His Majesty that Sir James Shaen proposed no security for his performance, to which Mr. Hyde replied it was not by a Farm but

by a management, in which case security was not necessary ; and that by experience His Majesty found that his Customs here, which were under a manager, proved much more advantageous to His Majesty, and that the revenue was much better paid now than when it was under Farm, and His Majesty had 400,000*l.* security for it To which it was answered by us that in the case of the Customs the Commissioners who managed it had only to do with the receipts, but in this proposition of Sir James Shaen's he was to manage both receipts and the payments, and therefore security was necessary for the performance. Thus, my Lord, for the present I have done with Sir James's project, in which I have been the larger that your Grace might be acquainted with all that passed, which your Grace could not be without this prolixity. I am now to acquaint your Grace that Sir James being nettled at the opposition given him, in revenge is again setting on foot the suspension projected by him a month since, and which was laid aside upon my application to His Majesty in favour of my Lord Chancellor, and his malice transports him so far that because my Lord Granard has vigorously opposed him ; he designs to have his entertainment as marshal among the suspensions ; of which I have given notice to my Lord Chamberlain to prevent any surprise of this kind upon His Majesty.

Last night there arrived here, as I am told by a good hand, fourteen discoverers of the plots in Ireland, who were presently welcomed in town and treated by Mr. Oates his man at their lodging, who this morning conducted them to my Lord Shaftesbury. Burke and McNamara are of their number, but the names of the rest I have not yet. They came on foot all the way, and are in an ill condition without clothes or money. They complain they were forced to leave Ireland for fear of their lives, having been severely fallen on by people there, insomuch that they were fain to steal on shipboard in the night, and being without money the good Bishop of Meath (who is the only Protestant Bishop in that kingdom) sent them privately three pound, conjuring them not to let it be known, lest it might turn to his prejudice. They rail severely against your Grace and my Lord Primate, saying they had all the discouragements imaginable from you ; and that when some of them acquainted your Grace that they intended for England, and desired some money of your Grace to defray the charge of their journey your Grace asked them what business they had in England, and said you had no money for them. Your Grace must expect that in a few days all the coffee-houses in London will ring with their discourses and that the fanatical party will make use of everything to reflect upon you. In the meantime I have given intimation of this to my Lord Chamberlain, that he may, as he finds occasion, acquaint His Majesty with it. Since the writing hereof my intelligencer tells me that

the Irish discoverers were at my Lord Shaftesbury's house, but he being not well they were not admitted to him, and that they resolve to lie close till Parliament meets.

Your Grace's of the 5th instant I have received, wherein your Grace tells me that in mine of the 28th of August to my Lord Arran I wrote that Bills might soon be sent over for a Parliament to meet there. I confess I have not time to copy my letters, and consequently cannot own that I writ these; but if I were in my wits I could not suggest any such thing; for I have not yet observed any steps towards the calling of a Parliament there, though several Bills have been under consideration. And when I reflect on the encouragement has been given all along to Sir James Shaen's objections against the Bills, I must want sense when I believe those on thy side are desirous a Parliament should meet. I only gave my Lord Arran an account of matter of fact here, and told him what the King said to me and others.

ORMOND to EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, September 20. Dublin.—I have your Lordship's of the 14th and Mr. Secretary Jenkins' of the same date with the proposal of Sir James Shaen. I hope by the next to hear that you have seen further into the mystery than anybody here can do. You will soon discover whether my Lord of Ranelagh though seemingly most directly struck at the proposals be not yet in the bottom of it, as I confess I have suspected ever since Sir James became a purchaser of so many shares in the undertaking and ever since I received his project from your Lordship, which is a year ago and more. I write in very great haste, the post calling for my letters, but I must not, as I have heretofore, forget to tell you we cannot find entries of letters from the Council here directed to the President of the Council of England and so without order cannot innovate. Mr. Nash continues the freedom of his style and gives more and other kind of advice than is desired from him, from him, which, together with his menaces, are lost upon your Lordship's faithful servant.

EARL OF BARRYMORE to ORMOND.

1680, September 24. Castlelyons.—Being at the interment of Sir Philip Percival on Wednesday I met there with most of the gentry of the north side of the county of Cork and some of the county of Limerick, who desire me to acquaint your Grace of the frequent robberies almost every night committed by one Gerald Fitzgerald and others (whose names I have here enclosed to your Grace), and the hazard their corn and such as live in thatched houses are exposed to should they attempt to set these rogues or otherwise be active in the bringing of them to justice, which will not be done without your Grace's special order to have some forces in

small parties appointed to do service on them, and countenance the country, and I do not doubt to get Fitzgerald set, so that your Grace will impower me so to do and to reward the person or persons that do that service as your Grace shall think fit, all which is humbly offered to your Grace's consideration.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, September 25. Whitehall.—I should have acknowledged the honour of your Grace's letter of the 11th current by the Tuesday post, but that I was in hopes to have sent you Sir James Shaen's blanks filled up by this night, having moved in Council (as I did on Wednesday) that he might be enjoined to bring them in. Their Lordships commanded the Clerk of the Council in waiting to call upon him, but I can yet hear of no return. I will be sure to lay before His Majesty (as soon as he returns, which I hope will be this day sennight) your Grace's judgment upon the Bill of the Additional Revenue, together with the true reason of it's being made temporary, as also how currently it had passed the Farmers. I could not but suspect there must be much of fallacy in the strictures of Sir James Shaen upon it, for it is morally impossible that your Grace and the Council should so far mistake your measures as not to have charged one commodity that was capable of bearing the addition, and which is yet more strange that you should altogether be mistaken in the ways and measures for levying the duty, supposing that the commodities would bear it; but this is no wonder that we cannot get forward if Sir James Shaen must be heard and answered as long as his inventive faculty can furnish matter. Our master upon occasion of his readiness and confidence called to mind an expression of M. de Turenne's of somebody not unlike this gent. *c'est le plus honneste frippon qui est au monde*. The three Irish witnesses keep very close. They have not yet seen my Lord of Shaftesbury, who hath of late been indisposed, but now recovers. They say they have been forced to steal away out of Ireland for fear of their lives. I beseech God to preserve your Grace from all malice.

ORMOND to SIR CYRIL WYCHE.

1680, September 25. Kilkenny.—I have yours of the 18th and by the account it gives of the last meeting upon Sir James Shaen's proposals I conclude they and the consideration of a Parliament here are adjourned. Those who were unwilling there should be a Parliament could not have found a better expedient than to set up Sir James to object and propose, as appears by the event. If we that serve His Majesty here had neglected to represent the ill condition the kingdom is in when it is threatened with Popish plots and a French invasion, and if we had barely represented the danger and proposed nothing to prevent it, we had justly merited the censure of stupidity or treachery, but having done both

I hope we shall escape any such reproach, tho' if the misfortune happen we shall feel our share of it. Now that objections and proposals (which can never be wanting) have taken place, I conceive it would be reasonable to let any improvement of the revenue and any contingent advantage be made use of to be applied towards the supply of our greatest defects. Of this nature I think was what I long since represented to my Lords of the Treasury of a double payment made by His Majesty of the same sum, one in England and one here. The case you have by you and can best judge whether and when it may be fit to refresh their Lordships' memory in it.

ORMOND TO EARL OF LONGFORD.

1680, September 27. Kilkenny.—Your Lordship's of the 18th got hither in six days, but that from Mr. Nash, of the same date, was stopped till yesterday by the hand to which it was directed. I send it you that you may see how much better he is informed of what passed at the Council than your Lordship, though you were upon the place and had a part in the action, whereby you may judge how safe it may be to give absolute credit to an intelligencer so easily misled. Perhaps your Lordship may think fit to extract some of the most notorious falsehoods to convince Mr. Nash that he is not to depend upon his idol for oracles. I look upon the proposals and an Irish Parliament as laid aside for some months. If my Lord Ranelagh should be at the bottom of the proposals, he has a dexterous way of disguising it. When your Lordship arrives, we shall have leisure to discourse more at large, and then if my son Arran has kept your letter it will appear whether I mistook or you have forgot what you writ about the speedy sending of some bills.

ORMOND TO SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE.

1680, September 28. Kilkenny.—Yours of the 19th comprehends a great deal in a little room; my return shall be as short as I can make it. The time draws on apace when ordinary capacities are like to know more than the highest can guess at, which revelation I shall attend with others of my form and with the best resolution I can put on. Nothing has exercised my thoughts in the affairs of Ireland so much as to find out some reason why some (especially one) have found it necessary to make use of such a tool as Sir James Shaen, for tho' he has no reputation to lose, yet to patronise him can be no addition to that of any man's either in point of probity or intellectuality; but I leave this with other mysteries to future explanation and apply myself to the kind and most obliging part of your letter where you tell me what in my conduct sticks with unbiassed men, who by the way cannot make good that character without hearing defences as well as charges before they give credit, which in this case

is sentence against the accused. First, that all or half the military places have been sold in any time of my government or any of them to my use or to the use of anybody else to my knowledge is absolutely false, and yet it is true that a custom has been introduced by other Governors and not by me to permit officers to sell their places to their best advantage, wherein whether they follow the example of England or whether they thought it best for the service or for what other reason they began the traffic I will not determine, but finding it thus I have in some (not in many) cases permitted it to go on—when one has bought I have allowed him to sell and where I found a loyal meriting officer antiquated and charged with children, I have given him leave to sell his command, but in all cases I have been as careful as I could to bring into the army none but such as either had served well or were like to do so. That in twenty year's peace many of the army should grow old and look rustily, and that under diversity of generals they should in that time contract some corruptions is the less strange that the army must be dispersed in few, and many times, in single companies all over the kingdom and that contrary to the état of all other armies this is not regimented; for their number all that can be done to keep it full can be but frequent and strict musters and often changing their quarters, which is constantly practised. But now I think of it I will with this send you the copy of some heads by way of instruction I gave my Lord Granard when he went into England. They were hastily drawn according to the time he allowed me and were further communicated than I intended, something towards the end of them might have been more smoothly expressed, if it had perhaps the opposition to a Parliament here had been less violent and fewer faults would have been found in our Bills, but I must now own the words were mine. I remember my old friend Tom Elliott valued himself much upon the absolute government of his wife, and yet lookers on thought she governed him; why may not some be as much mistaken in the case betwixt me and the person you mention? It is easy to say, but I defy any man to show where I have been imposed upon to do an unjust—nay, an unreasonable thing by my resignation to his or any man's sense. My faults and failings, which, God knows, are many, are all my own, and I want that—even that poor excuse for them. I will confess that in men's peculiar professions I defer much to their judgments and where they mislead me I will lay it as much at their doors as I can.

My grandson is now with me and to stay with me till the next spring. In that time I hope to get acquainted with him and provide a fit person to trust abroad with him, if any such comes into your memory or knowledge it would be the highest obligation to me and my family to get him for us. I shall think nothing too much to allow a man capable of such a trust,

and that probably would make as much of the youth as God has furnished materials for. A proposition was made to me about a month since of a wife for him in the West of England, and it is still in some faint motion.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, September 28. Whitehall.—I have the honour of two letters from your Grace—the one of the 18th, the other of the 20th current to acknowledge; both coming yesterday to hand at one and the same time, together with the remarks of your Grace and the Council there upon Sir James Shaen's objections against the Bill of Additional Duties. Those remarks were read this morning in Council, and there was little said upon them in regard your Grace and the Council seemed not to be much concerned in the fate of that Bill, which (for aught I perceive) will be laid aside. Before these remarks were read, a letter of the Farmers in Ireland to Sir James Shaen had been read. The occasion was this: I had observed to my Lords that Sir James Shaen had not complied with their Lordships' order whereby he had been commanded to fill up the blanks of his project and to ascertain the time in which his bargain was to begin and end for that the filling of these blanks, and the fixing of the precise times upon which the contract should begin and end would very much guide my Lords of the Council of Ireland in the judgment they are to make of the project. Upon this motion one of the clerks answered that Sir James Shaen was attending at the door; being called in and asked for his project with the blanks filled, his answer was he had not yet done it, and for the time it should be his own time, that is, the King's he said, (for his advantage should be the King's advantage) and the contract should begin when it should please the King. After he had expatiated very much upon his reality and honest meaning in the project, he produced a letter from his fellow Farmers (or some of them) giving an account how far they were made privy to the Bill of Additional Duties when the Bill was first drawn up, and also how they had been called to the Council the other day and made acquainted with Sir James Shaen's objections against that Bill, that letter being read, the issue was that my Lord's monished Sir James to give obedience to their first order and to bring in his blanks filled up and his terms ascertained, to the ends my Lords of the Council of Ireland here may give their thoughts upon the project and be ready to do it against the King come home, which will be to-morrow sennight, or it may be a day or two later. The King hath within this three or four days declared himself at Newmarket that he thinks it very much for his service to have a Parliament called as soon as is possible in Ireland, and my Lord Chancellor hath this day represented to the Council that their Lordships should give to the Bills before them all the despatch possible, because the

very engrossing of the Bills will take up a great deal of time. Mr. Oates informed the Council this day that there are great numbers of Irish Papists about the town lately come, that there came 200 in one week and about 7 or 800 within these very few months. I know not whether there be any medium to examine the truth of this on that side, or whether it be worth the while to do it. We have Mr. Oates's word for it here.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, September 28. Blessington.—It is a very short account which was sent me by the last packet of Sir James Shaen's project; I should otherwise have given your Grace the trouble of it before this. They write only thus much to me on that occasion: that the Lord Ranelagh was the spokesman of the committee, that he desired Sir J. Shaen should fill up the blanks, and it was ordered so accordingly. Several observations were made upon the proposals which were not well relished by Sir James, who doubted not but in case there should be a Parliament in Ireland they would give no money, but of this I should hear more hereafter. My Lord Granard had left London and was gone to Cassiobury in his way to Ireland, and with him Sir Garnet Erwin, who had obtained a letter from the King to your Grace for the next troop of horse. I am advertised that the Lord President is no friend to Sir J. Shaen or to his proposal, but yet it is not doubted by some but that he will compass his business.

It is already discoursed by some what the King intends to speak to the Parliament at their meeting; first he will ask no money unless they will think fit to appropriate some to Tangier. Secondly, he will vindicate his brother from any knowledge of the Plot; thirdly, he will allow them to propose any laws for the security of the Protestant religion, and of property and against the French, but he will admit nothing upon the point of succession. If this will not take but that the Houses will be interposing in the last particular, the world may judge where the fault lies. Thus the speech is already prepared by the Court, and some cabals are already made in the city to discountenance it. Where it will end God knows.

The enclosed from my cousin Fitzpatrick came to me upon Saturday last at the evening, which I presume to send your Grace. If your Grace have any commands for me unto him, I shall take care to convey them according to his former directions. I know not whether he hath received mine or no, he says nothing of it in his letter, but by some passages therein I guess that he hath. He likewise enclosed the little note about the Sheriff of Queen's County, which I presume your Grace will be pleased to return me with his letter. I have likewise enclosed to your Grace for your diversion a copy of verses or rather a libel fathered upon my Lord

Rochester, but let the poet be whomsoever report makes him, he hath dealt very unkindly with a lady unto whom I have the honour of some relation.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, September 28. London.—Thinks joint letter of Lord Lieutenant and Irish Council re objections to Bill of Additional duties is rather a history of the origin and progress of that Bill than an answer to those objections. Sir James Shaen is very confident, asserting that they cannot be answered. Encloses a communication from Lord Chamberlain containing His Majesty's opinion that Ranelagh has routed Sir J. Shaen in the argument in the Treasury Chamber, but still, in the writer's judgment, Sir James Shaen appears certain of carrying his point. Explains the intent of his previous letter, which was written not to advocate any mean condescension, but to checkmate the enemy's design against the monarchy by not showing too violent an opposition to the new proposals. Secretary Jenkins moved the Council that Sir James Shaen should be called on to fill up his blanks without further delay. One of the clerks said he was outside the door. Being called in and queried as to the cause of the delay, he answered that some of the blanks couldn't be filled up without further information, and the time for the beginning and ending of his scheme would be as the King's advantage—his own likewise—demanded. He further produced a letter just received from his partners in the Farm, and pointed out contradictions between it and the joint letter already referred to.

Bourke has represented the necessitous condition of himself and the other discoverers to Shaftesbury, who recommends them to the Lord President, failing aid from whom he will succour them himself. Particulars of the straits they are reduced to mentioned together with an account of the help they have received. They allege that of the Irish Council only two—the Bishop of Meath and Col. Robert Fitzgerald—gave them any encouragement. [*Abstract.*]

ORMOND to SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE.

1680, October 1. Kilkenny.—In the making up of my letters the paper I intended to send you with my last was left behind, but possibly this will overtake it and perform what that promised. I have this morning received letters of the 25th of the last month, which coming from several hands that have various conversations and as differing conceptions, it is not possible to figure more discord of thoughts and expectations than possess men at this time. Discoverers of plots multiply upon us here as well as in England. Two or three I have upon my hands at this time which, whatever they prove, shall be transmitted to the Council of England as soon as they shall be fit for them. No

man next the King can be more concerned to find them out than myself, nor is any man more persuaded of the propension of many of the Irish to rebel. I know how easily they are seduced by the Popish clergy, and how ready they have been and will be on all occasions to seduce them, not well understanding when an opportunity is proper nor much caring how they venture their flocks upon bad terms for the Catholic cause and their particular interest, and therefore I dare not slight any information upon the incompetency of the informer or the improbabilities of the information having to do with people that seldom act by the rules of prudence or their own true interest. This addition of trouble comes upon you by my negligence, but it shall end here.

SIR JOHN TEMPLE to ORMOND.

1680, October 2.—I have received the honour of your Grace's letter of the 29th of September with my brother's enclosed, as also your Grace's warrant for my Lord Sunderland's pension, whereupon I have drawn the fiat, and send it by this post to Mr. Ellis.

I think the best way for your Grace to be rid of the trouble that is given you by this new fellow that accuses so many Popish priests would be to send him to my Lord Chief Justice or some other of the Judges of the King's Bench to take his examination and issue out such warrants thereupon as they shall see cause, for that being the legal way cannot reasonably be found fault with, and it being their proper work, I see no reason why your Grace should take it upon yourself out of their hands unless the matter were very extraordinary.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, October 5. London.—Ormond is to be accused in Parliament of keeping back his knowledge of the Plot, and then of faintly prosecuting those accused by the discoverers. These latter are to be produced at the sitting of Parliament. The aim of Shaftesbury's party is to drive him from the Irish Government, and still further, to blacken his reputation, so depriving him of any chance of serving the Crown in any capacity. Longford beseeches him to send his son Arran to London to work up his interest among his friends, which he himself will endeavour as much as in him lies for the remainder of his stay there. Colonel Fitzpatrick is in town and has been very civilly received by Sunderland. It is deemed reasonable and politic to give him every fair encouragement in view of his change to the Protestant religion.

The writer has seen Sir James Shaen, who is very confident and bids defiance now to Lord Ranelagh, seeing that he has the blanks in his proposal filled up. Particulars are enclosed relative to this proposal—36,000*l.* appropriated annually for arms, repair of forts, building of ships, etc. Longford

does not understand item of 85,000*l.* running cash, but thinks the King will be the loser to that extent on the whole transaction. [*Abstract.*]

LAURENCE POWER to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680, October 6. Tanderagee.—There was lately a man who of his own accord came to me and told me if I could propose any way to secure him of a reward he would undertake to do very good service in betraying the Tories, and I told him the country made very good provision already for any that would either kill or betray any of them, especially Redmond or Loughlin; but he replied that what the country promised was very uncertain and long a-getting, and if I could but assure him of anything he would undertake to betray all the Tories in the North. I told him if he would I'd give him ten pound of my own, and withal that your Grace would see him well rewarded, upon which promise and encouragement he told that Redmond and Loughlin were to go towards Longford, and that sixteen Tories out of the counties of Derry and Tyrone were to meet them, and that they were to rob a gentleman's house upon the borders of Connaught, and before they were to attack the house they were to lodge the night before in two troopers' houses that belong to my Lord Granard and live near Longford, which (to his certain knowledge) he said did assist Redmond in several robberies and received several stolen goods from him and was very certain they had a considerable sum of money in keeping for Redmond. He could neither tell me their names nor what countrymen they were. And, my Lord, last night this man and nine lusty fellows from this town are gone towards Longford. On Monday morning Redmond and Loughlin and four more (as the fellow told me) are gone upon this expedition, and he was very confident he and the nine that went with him should meet with them in these troopers' houses. I encouraged the fellow as well as I could and told him the ten pound I'd give him should not be reckoned upon the country's account and gave him some money in hand, and he told me further that if he missed of this design the Tories were resolved as soon as they came from Longford to attempt the robbing of the Widow Cope's house in this county and near the town of Armagh. It is a strong house and he said all the Tories appointed to meet there. They are to come in the evening in red coats and to surprise the gate leading into the house. He says they be a strong party and that Redmond has engaged several young fellows in this county to join with them, among whom this my informer is one. He promised to come to me the night before. Now, may it please your Grace, I do not know who to impart this affair unto, Sir Hans Hamilton being not in the country. Sir George Acheson is the most active and fittest for such an undertaking, and I am certain if your Grace will write to him he'll be very

diligent in it. He took a great deal of pains to find out the horses that were stolen from Blessington and desired me to acquaint your Grace that Mr. Harrison of Lisburn seized two geldings. I writ to Mr. Harrison and sent two men to view the geldings—one of them is an iron grey, and the other sandy, which paces, but is very lame. Sir George met others in the mountains that are of little value, and therefore believes cannot belong to your grace. This account I thought fit to give your Grace. The Tories that are gone to Longford are all in gray coats lined with red, and they are to turn the red side out when they come to the gentleman's house.

ROBERT GORGES TO LORD LANESBOROUGH.

1680, October 7. Kilbrew.—The Lord Ranelagh owing the Earl of Longford about fifteen hundred pounds gave him a list of pretended arrears due to His Majesty in the county of Meath to satisfy that debt. The Earl of Longford knowing my residence to be in that county communicated to me his list; *primâ facie* I made objections against several articles of it, well knowing that several sums charged to be in arrear by that list were already paid and as well knowing that other articles were never due. His Lordship well knew how unjustly that county as well as others had been harassed by the Lord Ranelagh's vain pretensions, and being tender of giving any further unnecessary trouble to the subject, gave me his list to enquire on the place the true state of those pretended debts, and I, well knowing the then approaching assize, where would be a concourse of persons of quality from all parts of the county, would give me full opportunity to answer his Lordship's desires, accepted the service, and there producing and reading the list in the presence of such as I knew were most knowing in concerns of that nature had objections made me almost against every article, and was particularly told by Mr. Pratt (who is now a Justice of Peace of that county, and a man that was employed for more than seven years past to collect the King's whole revenue in it) that he would not give twenty shillings for what was justly due to my Lord Ranelagh in that list; others said that, however, if that list came to his Lordship's usual ministers and they armed as formerly with the levying process of the Exchequer, what by terrifying the country, what by driving their stock, wasting their lands, and bribes they would receive from the poor people, especially in harvest time, that they would soon do more mischief to the country than the money contained in the list would repay. Others then present said that the Lord Ranelagh had other claims of the same kind on the county, and that his Grace the Lord Lieutenant was so tender of the country and so distrustful of the reality, that the lists were to be sent into the country and examined on the place before any further vexations should be given the subject, which is a course both just

and generous and agreeable to the precedents of former times, and had it been pursued when the Lord Ranelagh entered on his unhappy undertaking had, I am sure, saved this country more than double the money that was ever *bonâ fide* due to his Lordship, and without charge or trouble procured what was justly due to him. I know one of his collectors is now reputed to be worth 5,000*l.*, who before his employ was not worth five groats. I as well know that the multitude of other vermin employed by him got much more, not only the commissioners, but their collectors, nay, every vagabond rogue employed by them appeared armed in the country with the great thunderbolt, I mean the levying process of the Exchequer, which, as your Lordship well knows, not only extends to body, goods and lands, but even to lands, tenements and hereditaments from the date of the pretended debt, a punishment by law calculated for sedate times, and to be executed only on incorrigible offenders and indisputable debtors, and not to be intrusted in any hand by the Sheriff's who were usually persons of the best quality and repute in the county, and they not entrusted with this process till they gave good security, and that only for one year, under severe penalties as appears by several laws, Edw. II, III, 28; Edw. III, VII, 42; Edw. III, IX, 1, etc., but when this authority thus cautiously guarded by the law was without security or consideration put into the hands of vile persons and that for many years, your Lordship may easily conjecture what direful effects the conjunction of this authority with these persons must have on the subject's property; which power being derived in its first original from obscure and impure hands, like a polluted fountain the farther it ran the more pollution it contracted, till at last it fell into the rascality of the common people, and they usually executing it with the greater rigour on their captives that Turk-like (Christian comparisons the matter will not well bear) they might quicken and heighten the price of redemption to their own advantage, and whereas by all laws persons are to be heard before judged, condemned or executed, these miscreants having once invaded the just and ancient methods of His Majesty's Exchequer, inverted the common method of natural justice, beginning where all other laws end, with execution, that we never knew ourselves debtors till we found our herds and flocks in their hands or pounds; and the more crafty of them knowing that the punishment which by law was, as I said, imposed on contumacious and undoubted debtors, they knowing that this was applicable as they pleased, usually they would make the pretended debt lower than the price of a legal discharge, and thereby necessitate the subject to pay their unjust demand or to seek for a legal cure, where the remedy was more expensive than the disease. And if this hath been the usage of the county of Meath, a county so near the fountain of the Government and a county so well planted with English,

who are usually observed not hastily to forget or forgive oppressions of this kind, what does your Lordship expect was the usage of the more remote and barbarous parts of this kingdom, where it is said that the name of Ranelagh is as much abhorred as the name of St. Patrick is adored. St. Patrick they tell us turned all venomous corruption out of the kingdom, and Ranelagh hath brought all in, and did these remarks be thus justly due (as upon further inquiry it would be found) to this list, which the Lord Ranelagh is said to call his best list of debts in this county, I beseech your Lordship to consider what character is fit to be given to his next demand. We in the country say that his Lordship, his partners and creatures have shared the King's real debts amongst themselves, and now hope to pay His Majesty with pretended debts of their own making. But well knowing who God and the King hath set over us and his great concern amongst us. and that that concern must more suffer by arbitrary proceedings than any of ours we are in hopes, upon your Lordship's interposal, mischiefs of that nature may for the future be prevented, and that upon the place my Lord Ranelagh's future pretensions may be examined, the country's objections heard, and till then the great thunderbolt of the Exchequer restrained, which I believe is the desire of the whole kingdom as well as of the county of Meath and of yours, etc.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, October 9. London.—His account of what passed at the meeting in the Treasury Chamber was correct, notwithstanding anything in Nash's letter. Urges Ormond to look to himself, as the storm is coming on, even though it be at the sacrifice of temporising, and regrets Lord Cavendish's not being returned from France, for he would be of assistance in the approaching crisis. Sir James Butler is anxious as to the fate of a letter he wrote about a successor to the Bailiff of Westminster. Ol. Plunket, it has been decided, is to stand his trial in London, but Lord Tyrone's case is to be further debated. He would lose his privilege of trial by his peers if his trial was to take place in London. Thinks that Ranelagh is not at the bottom of Sir James Shaen's strivings, for the two are either utter enemies or else "the arrantest jugglers in Christendom." Has inspected, the house which Coventry has proposed as a residence for Ormond, but thinks it unsuitable on several grounds. [*Abstract.*]

ORMOND to the GOVERNOR OF LIMERICK.

1680, October 9. Kilkenny.—Having received information of a certain quantity of powder, some muskets and pistols coming from Holland and being landed without our licence in the river of Limerick, we have sent you a copy of the

examination of Thomas Fleming, mariner, upon that subject, taken by the sovereign of Kinsale, the second instant, and do hereby will and require you to secure one William Kearny, inhabitant of Limerick, who is deposed to have come over in the ship that brought the said powder and arms, and strictly examine him as to what he knows of the shipping, landing, and disposing or other particulars concerning the premises, and such examinations to transmit speedily to us, with what other advices you may have or can receive towards the fuller discovery of the matters above mentioned, and so we bid you heartily farewell.

JOHN ODELL to GERALD FITZGERALD.

1680, October 11.—My dearest cousin,—At my return home on Saturday I found my wife perplexed at stories told her, some that I should tempt Lyne and offer him land of inheritance as a bribe to swear the Plot, some again on the other hand that I have discovered to the conspirators the informations against them; some that I have said that there was nothing in David Fitzgerald information but magnified Nash's; others that I have reflected on his Grace and said that his Grace should say that Nash his information was a vain idle thing and no credit to be given to it. How inconsistent these are I leave you judge, yet I am persuaded their inventions are at work and are designing malice, or at least like the letter to terrify my wife to persuade me from my duty; but believe me, cousin, nothing less than poniard, poison, or what may deprive me of life shall deter or take me off my duty to His Sacred Majesty and my country and an exact obedience to his Grace's commands, who I am obliged to honour, and so much I hope if in your way and one arise for it, you will vouch; I confess to you as I did to my Lord Lieutenant that I have personal kindnesses to several that are impeached and particular prejudice to none, but all kindness and respect are to be forgot in things of this nature; you are now on the stage and may expect a like malice, but so we discharge our duties and endeavour the public peace and safety of the kingdom I presume we have both our ends. What Lyne will do I know not. I have not yet seen nor heard from him nor Massey, though I wrote to both yesterday; if he should continue obstinate and denies what he told me and what aid I gave my Lord Lieutenant, I desire you satisfy his Grace that I can prove he has told another Justice of the Peace and half-a-dozen besides as much as he told me. John Massey that goes with him brought him to me and was witness to all he said. It's true I did not examine him on oath. I durst not trust a thing of so high a nature to the conduct of my own reason, but prayed his Grace's commands whether or by whom examined or whether he should attend his Grace, but I hope you will sweeten him, and by your reason work him to perform his duty.

John Massey, Sir, has been active and discharged well his duty. I question whether either Nash, Lyne, or Stokes had appeared were it not for him; he let it not die as soon as he heard anything, but carried them first before my Lord Orrery, and after to Limerick, and bore their charges and Stokes till he brought him before me, and having not spared his person nor purse, it's the least he be repaid what he laid out, being not so well beforehand with the world as to lose it. What charges I have been at with them at Limerick or elsewhere I value not, so His Majesty be served and the country secured I have my reward, though I know no reason why the public or this particular county should not as well bear what charge I and Massey has been at as what you will be now at as we since they will have equall benefit, me and mine to Reedy and fireside. Doctor Lyne promiseth me this morning he will discharge himself faithfully. Your reason and temper will, if possible, encourage him. John Nash goes. If when David and he meet he will not speak to purpose, I advise he be sent back. John Massey tells me of a great meeting of about 5,000 foot and about 500 horse about Glanneragh. If so, the apprehension I told you of the several parties marching by night through the country was not vain. I advise you to my quarters at Mr. Long's at Kilkenny, because near the castle.

[*Endorsed*: "To my honoured friend and kinsman, Gerald Fitzgerald, High Sheriff, of the co. Limerick"].

EARL OF BURLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, October 12. London.—Since I waited upon your Grace I have been in a constant motion, but being now come to a place where I shall, I believe, fix for this winter, I think myself obliged to acknowledge the favours I received from your Grace when I waited upon you at Kilkenny and to assure your Grace that I shall be very happy if your commands will give me an occasion to show with how much readiness I should obey them.

The members of Parliament do in great numbers flock up and more are daily coming, so as 'tis believed it will be the fullest House of Commons that has been these many years. The Court is not without jealousies, and the private meeting that ('tis said) has been lately between the Duchess of Portsmouth and the Duke of Monmouth does not perhaps lessen it in some persons. They report great numbers of Irish to be lately come out of Ireland to this place, but I believe they are much multiplied by the fears of some and designs of others. My Lord of Castlehaven has lately printed memoirs of his own actings, which gives such offence to some that it will, I hear, occasion an answer. I have desired my nephew, Robert Fitzgerald, to wait upon your Grace about the commission you were pleased to promise me of the county of Cork, and since he had one for the county of Kildare, he may see mine (if your Grace approve of it) drawn accordingly

When the Parliament meets, if anything of importance shall happen (as I doubt many things will) your Grace shall receive notice thereof.

PRIMATE BOYLE to the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

1680, October 12. Blessington.—The Lord Bishop of Down by a letter from London hath given me intimation (and, I understand, by your Grace's favour and directions) that there is a petition prepared to be presented to the Parliament in England complaining that several of the Bishops of Ireland have more than one bishopric, by reason whereof the people are much neglected and the new plantations much discouraged, and that this petition is managed by a Dean of Ireland and two other gentlemen besides, and that this petition is at present in your Grace's hands. I must in the first place acknowledge your Grace's great favour and concern in the behalf of this poor Church, that you have been pleased to make some stop of that petition until you should first receive from hence account of the matter of fact, which, in short, I apprehend to be this as well as I can recollect at present :—

There are two sorts of unions of bishoprics in this kingdom ; some are perpetual and have been made so of a very long date, as Cork and Ross, Dublin and Glendelough, Kilkenny and Ossory, and, as I suppose, Down and Connor, with some few others. These have been so long and legally united that they are esteemed but as one bishopric. Other unions there are which are only temporary, and were united by the King's Letters Patents after His Majesty's Restoration, which, I suppose, was done principally upon these two considerations.

1. The small value of those bishoprics which were then united, which at that time (the country having been harassed by the late wars and rebellions) were incompetent if single and alone to support a bishop according to that condition which was requisite. A second reason might have been that the lands of the bishoprics were all in the possession of other persons who had seized them or farmed them from the usurper. And it was thought difficult to retrieve these and to bring them home again without some abilities in the new bishops to recover them who were then generally great sufferers, very poor and reduced to a low condition.

As to those of the former sort which had been perpetually united, His Majesty took no notice of them to interpose or alter them ; as to the latter, which are only temporary unions, the Lord Lieutenant hath upon the vacancy of the see represented to His Majesty the fitness of disuniting them if he found them improved to a sufficiency for a single person. And upon this account of our Lord Lieutenant's representation to His Majesty, the bishopric of Cloyne, which was united unto Cork, was upon the death of the last Bishop of Cork disunited, and is now made a bishopric of itself ; so likewise

the bishopric of Dromore, which was united unto that of Down, is now made a bishopric of itself. And I may reasonably suppose that the like course is intended in the future when they shall become void, if they shall be found a competency to maintain a bishop, for I partly know our Lord Lieutenant's intentions in that particular. But really, my Lord, some of those united bishoprics are so miserably poor that they will not well maintain a good curate. This, as I conceive, is the true state of that affair or very near it, but I dare not be positive as to particulars, being absent from my papers, which are now at Dublin; and my Lord Lieutenant (who seems most to be reflected on as Chief Governor of this kingdom) being now at Kilkenny at such a distance that I cannot wait upon his Grace to receive his commands therein within the time that I thought myself obliged by good manners to attend your Grace with this account.

What the persons are that present and prosecute this petition I am not otherwise advertised, but that one of them is a dean and the other two esquires and all of this kingdom. I am somewhat inclinable to believe that if the dean could have procured for himself a good bishopric here he had never complained of the Government, but this is not the first time that particular disappointments of that kind have raised up enemies to the Church and State also under the pretence of reformation.

It might admit of many conjectures why those gentlemen that pursue that petition being all of this kingdom did not first according to their duties apply themselves to the Lord Lieutenant and Government before they would carry over such a complaint into England, where they might have been sure to have obtained right in the behalf of the Church in general against any particular person whatsoever; they could not but know that the remedy was proper to be sought for here, and near at hand; they could not but believe that the Parliament of England, unto whom they designed to address themselves: would at the most but represent this complaint unto the King, that His Majesty might have the true state thereof examined in this kingdom. But some love to make a noise, though it be for nothing, and, when other attempts fail them, to endeavour to make themselves considerable by clamours. But it is not my business to reflect. All that I shall presume to trouble your Grace with upon this occasion is with my humble petition in the behalf of this poor Church, that your Grace will be pleased to favour and protect the bishops and clergy of this kingdom as far as you shall find us not altogether unworthy your countenance and defence.

Copy.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680, October 12th. Blessington.—I gave your Grace the trouble of some letters and prints about the beginning of this

month, but I cannot tell whether they came to your Grace's hands, for I have received none from your Grace since yours of the second instant. The enclosed from my cousin Fitzpatrick came lately to my hands. I suppose your Grace will not be unconcerned to do him all the kindnesses you can, notwithstanding the reflections which my Lord of Essex makes upon his conversion. If your Grace would be pleased to direct me how I should serve him by writing unto any friends in England or any other way, I shall do it with all my heart and shall run the hazard of any misinterpretation that can be put upon it.

I am not satisfied that the Sheriff of the Queen's County hath done any wrong in possessing Hoveden of part of his estate, if the case be as it is represented unto me; but I believe it may be judged a hard proceeding, and upon that account your Grace's refusal to continue him another year is certainly very prudential.

I herewith send your Grace a letter which I received by the last packet from the Bishop of Down, which is all that I ever heard upon that matter. I shall not trouble your Grace with any paraphrase upon the particulars of the letter, but leave it as it is to your Grace's letter judgment. I know not who those persons are who are the promoters of this petition, but I guess that the dean must be Dean Bladen, and one of the esquires Squire Coppinger, but I can make no guess at the third.

I would not willingly have returned any answer thereunto until I had received your Grace's sense upon it; but I considered that if I stayed to expect that my return would scarce reach London before the sitting of the Parliament, which perhaps would be thought too long a time for my Lord of Canterbury to keep the petition in his hands, and therefore I held it more convenient to write to his Grace by this night's packet, the copy whereof I herewith send your Grace. If your Grace will please to take so much notice of it yourself as to write your sense to my Lord of Canterbury upon it, it might not perhaps be an inconvenient or an unseasonable opportunity to begin a correspondence, and your Grace may make good use thereof for other occasions, for your Grace may perceive by the Bishop's letter that my Lord of Canterbury doth already resent the petitioners passing by the Government of this kingdom without their application. If your Grace finds anything amiss in my letter (which was hastily put upon me), and that you would have me change or alter anything therein, I have left myself latitude enough to correct anything I wrote therein. I have written likewise to the Bishop of Down and have presumed to tell him that I doubted not but your Grace would have a great respect and value for his kindness.

I herewith send your Grace another letter which I received from Mr. Power. I have writ him a general answer of

encouragement to that person that shall perform any acceptable service upon the Tories. If your Grace have any particular commands for me therein, I shall direct them to him. If I could have told whither to have wrote to my Lord Granard, I should have given his lordship the advertisement of his troopers, which Mr. Power sent me. I humbly desire your Grace that Mr. Power's name may be concealed.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, October 15. Chislington.—I have been so severely handled of late with this new fever that I was not in a capacity of presenting my humble duty to your Grace. It seized me at Newmarket when I underwent four fits, the three last bereaving me of my senses, but before the 5th (for it took me every second day only) I by the help of coaches reach Ampthill and found motion agreeable enough to me, so that after a day's rest I came hither. I would fain (if it please God) be able to get to London that (as the only service I am capable of doing your Grace) I might be accountable to you for our constant proceedings there. The passages in these parts of late have filled it with discourse, some extravagant healths at the Duke of Monmouth's being at Oxford giving just exceptions; one was a health to that bold Britain that should at next sessions of Parliament accuse the Duke of York of high treason. Only one Mr. Berkenhead refused it, and had like to have been quarrelled for his pains, but he proved too resolute to be frightened. Another (if the letters to Newmarket from Sir Jo. Worden to his father were true, as I understand here they were) was to the confusion of all Popish Dukes, all bishops and all colleges (because the University refused to compliment the Duke of Monmouth, though the Corporation did). When that was read to the Duke of York, Col. Worden told me the Duke replied, "Oh! they join me with the Church of England, and when they take that away I desire to be no longer duke." Great extravagancies were committed, because great drinking. My Lord Lovelace, they say, rode all about the town shouting with his cap waved he was for a Protestant Duke, no Papist, and God damn him, he was for the Protestant religion. Few of the gentlemen appeared, because my Lord Norreys refused, and the rather because a letter came down from Secretary Jenkins to the bishop and others to signify the King's approbation of those who gave no countenance nor entertainment to the Duke of Monmouth, who, as he rode along the streets, was followed by the rabble with shouts and acclamations that they hoped to see the crown shortly on his head.

Having nothing more important I presume to treat your Grace with these stories (though as by my scribble your Grace may perceive I am ill able to write, this being the very best I can). I shall no further importune your Grace concerning my niece Poulet, not having received a second letter, and on second examination inferring little hopes from that I had

in answer to my first. The truth is (all things considered) it was too rank a partiality to my niece for me to be guilty of that motion, considering my uncancellable obligations to your Grace.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE to ORMOND.

1680, October 18. Sheen.—I had lately the honour of two from your Grace of September 28, and October 1st, both which were too much for my satisfaction or information, unless you please to give me leave upon occasion to make use of them for your Grace's service and vindication, when I find it necessary. This I will presume upon, unless you forbid me, though (as I told you in my last) the thoughts of one or two persons being turned at present another way may possibly allay the dust that has been raised in this matter of late. For my own part wherever I meet it I shall deal with it just as I did last time it flew so much abroad, and am glad your Grace has furnished me in many particulars with better defences than I was before provided of.

'Tis most certain what your Grace observes that the darkness cannot be greater in our affairs here than it is at this time, and cannot be less with you there by so great a discord of thoughts as those transmitted you from hence by so many several hands. Those that know anything are concerned, I suppose, to keep it to themselves, and those that know most I doubt know very little, since they are yet certainly ignorant of what the last results of the Parliament will determine in. I know most are apt to guess at that, but for my part I will not till I see them together within those walls, which often gives another spirit to the house than was to be expected from that of the individuals before they went in, but day-break is now very nigh, and I shall with the utmost quiet I can attend it, and all it shall discover or produce when it comes. In the meantime I cannot omit taking notice of the commission your Grace is pleased to give me; whether I can acquit myself well of it or no, I should be extreme glad to obey you in a command where I find your Grace and your family so much concerned, and 'twere very easy for me to make you many offers of that kind, but hard to make one I am myself satisfied of, and any other is better let alone. After having run over all I have had in my head, I can yet think but of one so much as to name to you, and he is at present a great way off, and has given me some occasion of doubting whether he will engage in that charge or no. But his story is this. There is one Mr. Havers who has passed many years in Sir H. Capel's house as a companion, and seemed to ask nothing but an easy life, having something it seems of his own to support it. He is a man of virtue and of sense, but with great modesty. He is a scholar and has travelled, and has both Latin, French and Italian. I took so much notice of him as to have offered him being my secretary when I went ambassador into Holland in '74, and now again upon His Majesty's designing me for Spain, though he

be at present with Sir R. Southwell at Berlin, having gone with him as a companion in hopes only to make a summer's journey of it. He has excused himself to me upon this last offer, as he did upon the first, from his age (though I believe it is not fifty), and from his despair of acquitting himself well in such a new scene of business. I esteem him the more (though he fears I take it ill) and believe if he will undertake what your Grace proposes, he will be extreme fit for it and acquit himself to your satisfaction. That which makes me hope he may is that I know he was the greatest honourer in the world of your son; and of that and of the man, one Mr. Mullys, who, I think, served him, will be able to give you a better account than I. Besides, your Grace will make him a better condition than I should have been able, and he will not be so much a servant in it as he would have been with me. Sir R. Southwell is recalled and may be at home, probably in a month. If upon all this your Grace lay any further commands upon me, I shall obey them with great desires of succeeding.

MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF GALWAY to ORMOND.

1680, October 16.—Whereas there has been a difference betwixt Colonel Russell and the Corporation of Galway concerning the accounts relating to the money laid out by him for the use of the said Corporation, which of late has given your Grace some trouble, we being desirous fully to inform ourselves of the true state of that affair, that so your Grace may receive no further unnecessary trouble therein, we have in a very full Assembly of the Common Council of this Town met and carefully examined Colonel Russell's receipts and disbursements and the due interest arising thereupon, together with such allowances as are provided by the Charter, and consideration being had of his necessary expenses for the service of the town, we find that upon the balance of the account to the 25th of March last inclusive, there is due to Colonel Russell from the town, seventeen hundred one pounds fifteen shillings eight pence, towards the discharge of which there is the produce of the Revenue since that time yet unaccounted for. So that now there is a prospect that he may in a short time on his present security receive full satisfaction. The proceedings in this affair have received the approbation of a full Common Council and Tholsell of the town. All which we judge our duty to represent to your Grace and humbly remain your Grace's most obedient servants. [*Signed.*]

SOLL. CAMBIE, THO. SIMCOCKS, JOHN AMORY VIC' 1643,
JO. BULLINBROOKE, JOHN GERRY, RICH BROWNE, ROO.
WARNER, WILL. HOSKINS, PAT. MEIRS, RI. PLUMMER,
THO. REVETT, THO. ANDREWES, MART. KING, THEODORE,
RUSSELL, Mayor, RICH. COOTE, OL. ST. GEORGE, JA.
VAUGHAN, Warden, T. CRAWLEY, THO. CABTRIGHT,
WM. FLEMING, ROBT. SHAW, Cl. Theol.

EXAMINATION OF DAVID NASH BEFORE LORD LIEUTENANT
AND PRIVY COUNCIL.

1680, October 16.—All that could be gotten out of David Nash and William Stokes and by the examination of John Massie concerning the discovery of a plot being concluded, there remained nothing for us to do, as we thought, but to see Donogh Lyne subscribe to his relation, who being brought by the Sheriff of the county of Limerick to that end, he, the said sheriff, privately told the Lord Lieutenant that if he thought fit once more to press Lyne to declare his knowledge of the plot, he believed he might be brought to do it, which he collected, as he said, from some words Lyne let fall to him this morning. Hereupon the Lord Lieutenant told Lyne in the presence of the Sheriff and those of the Council that are here, that before he signed the paper he would let him know the state he was in, as he, the Lord Lieutenant, understood it, which was that in the said paper he positively and directly contradicted what he had said and owned in the presence of two Justices of the Peace, and of several other persons of good credit, as all of them would depose, and what trouble such a way of proceeding might bring upon him he desired him to consider. To this effect the Lord Lieutenant spoke to him, and it seemed to work so upon him that, being before so much indisposed that he was twice let blood since he came to this town, and was allowed to sit whilst he was under examination, and that he fainted and groaned pitifully and desired some sack to refresh him, he seemed to recollect himself and intend to speak something plain and positive, but after all this he fell into large uncertain, incoherent speeches, out of which all that could be gathered was that he knew nothing of the plot but what he had from Nash, that he believed Nash intended when he came hither to justify his first information, and desired that Nash might be brought in that he might speak to him in the presence of us all. Nash was accordingly brought in, and Lyne in a confused discourse seemed to persuade him to make good his first information upon oath, and among other arguments to induce him to it, said he, Nash, is damned already for what he has done, and having but one soul to lose, he had as good go on, or words to that effect, and that if he, the said Lyne, had sworn as Nash had done he would never retract, tho' he should hang half the men in Ireland thereby. Notwithstanding all Lyne's persuasions and his last argument, Nash was obstinate and would stick to his last information. Much heat and passion and much nonsense passed betwixt them; at length Lyne being very faint through his indisposition and vehement agitation, both which were very visible, desired he might retire, and that he and Nash might be permitted to discourse together in private. This was allowed, and the Sheriff having conducted them to their quarter, and, as he said, left them alone, after some

time of private conference betwixt them, the Sheriff was called in and told by Lyne that Nash was now ready to declare great matters, and desired he, the said Nash, might be brought before the Lord Lieutenant. The Sheriff (as he had reason) believed that what he, the said Nash, was ready to declare would be something in confirmation of his first information, as also who it was that had prevailed upon him to retract it in his last narrative, but when he came to speak all he said was that both the information formerly given by him upon oath and his last narrative subscribed by him were true. Being told how impossible it was that such direct and palpable contradictions could be true, all he said was that many circumstances in his first information were true, but whatever he had said and sworn in his information taken upon oath of a plot was totally false. That it was true there was a meeting of the gentlemen mentioned in his first information, but it was a meeting only of merriment, and not to lay any plot, but what he said of the frequent dispatches sent by him to Captain O'Sullivan to Berehaven about the plot was utterly false, and he said in manifestation thereof that he would be content to be hanged and quartered if it could be proved that ever he, the said Nash, was at Bere Haven in his life. When he was told how infamous and perjured a part he had acted either in accusing innocent persons or retracting the truth of his sworn information to save the guilty, he answered that fear of his life and promise of reward had made him first accuse them, and he had been so threatened that he was induced to say anything that might save his life. Being asked by the Sheriff who had threatened him, he answered that he, the Sheriff, had himself that morning threatened him if he did not confirm his first information given upon oath. Whereupon the Sheriff, who is a gentleman of good quality and fortune, falling upon his knees, did with bitter execrations of himself deny that ever he had threatened him, the said Nash, but that on the contrary he had always advised him not to wound his conscience either by accusing the innocent or sparing the guilty. True it was, as the said Sheriff acknowledged, that Nash asking him this morning when they should return home, he, the Sheriff, answered "You have brought great trouble and charge upon the State here, and upon many of your neighbours, and for aught I know in England, and you have two small peccadillos crimes to answer for, namely, treason and perjury, so that you are not like to return with me, and how the Lord Lieutenant will dispose of you or proceed against you I know not," and this Nash owned was all the Sheriff had said to him, and that he understood it to be a threat.

Endorsed :—Substance of what passed at Kilkenny, the 16 of October, concerning the discovery of a plot by David Nash, in the presence of

The LORD LIEUTENANT, the EARL OF ARRAN, SIR CHARLES MEREDITH, Chancellor of the Exchequer, SIR

JOHN. DAVYS, Secretary of State, SIR WM. FLOWER, Lieutenant Colonel of His Majesty's Regiment of Guards, and MR. GER. FITZGERALD, High Sheriff of the County of Limerick.

EARL OF LONGFORD to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, October 16. London.—The great ^{affair} ^{deba} ^t
^{ed} ^{fin} ^{co} ⁿ ⁿ ^{ce} ^e ^l ^{ing} ^D ^{York} ^{received}
 240 377 162 767 506 161 33 57 concerne 377 311 839 655 204
ⁱⁿ ^{this} ^{that} ^{he} ^s ^h ^o ^u ^l ^d ^{not} ^{go} ^{away} ^{Monex} ^{Halifax}
 377 735 736 338 678 336 543 767 431 50 519 315 128 267 349
^{Sunderland} ^{Godolphin} ^{well} ^{and} ^{his} ^{goe} ^{ing} ^{Radnor} ^{By}
 1063 332 801 636 281 39 339 64 315 377 311 1054 and 146
^{off} ^{London} ^{were} ^{partly} ^{per} ^{pal} ^{the} ^{re} ^s ^l
 547 462 799 237 634 237 598 838 590 581 433 734 636 40 65
^{go} ^r ^s ^r ^a ^s ^{who} ^{he} ^{resolves} ^{to} ^{do}
 281 634 678 721 76 838 836 338 655 64 725 208 and it is
^{he} ^{will} ^{be} ^{im} ^{pe} ^o ^h ^{ed} ^{he} ^{ta} ^{ke}
 certain 338 808 135 376 582 158 336 240 unless 338 722 414
^{out} ^a ^{pa} ^r ^d ^{on} ^{before} ^{the} ^{pm} ^{me} ^e ^t ^s ^{which} ^h ^{is}
 568 76 581 39 50 551 157 734 586 466 72 41 678 836 336 379
^{he} ^s ^t ^{friends} ^{ad} ^{vi} ^{se} ^h ^{im} ^{to} ^M ^{Duke} ^{Portsmouth}
 135 678 721 301 64 79 770 680 336 376 725 489 and 1039 86
^{are} ^{friends} ^{His} ^{Majesty} ^{hath} ^{of} ^{ten} ^{met} ^t ^{Monmouth} ^D ^{at} ^{the} ^{lodging}
 237 301 40 and 373 361 547 878 466 41 65 489 88 734 435
^{of} ^{De} ^{Port} [&] ^{Sunderland} ^{his} ^{party} ^{believe} ^{when} ^{his}
 50 29 377 678 547 1039 1063 and 339 40 598 45 143 830 373
^{Majesty} ^{is} ^{pressed} ^{hard} ^{by} ^{the} ^{Palmt} ^{yt} ^{he} ^{will} ^{part}
 379 588 40 64 240 337 634 26 48 45 734 786 736 338 808 598
^{with} ^{Duke} ^{but} ^{ye} ^D ^{is} ^{assured} ^{his} ^{Majesty} ^{will} ^{pass} ^{no} ^{bill}
 827 839 138 721 734 229 379 127 204 373 808 599 510 133
^{of} ^{at} ^{ta} ⁱⁿ ^{de} ^r ^{agt} ^{him} ^{Dor} ^{mu} ^s ^l
 382 547 88 722 377 206 634 113 336 376 566 469 678 721
^{to} ^{be} ^{fallen} ^{upon} ^{happy} ^{he} ^{will}
 reckon 725 135 278 33 57 245 791 377 586 and 338 808
^{have} ^{more} ^{friends} ^{than} ^{hi} ^s ^{enemies} ^{believe}
 366 501 301 40 734 59 339 678 265 40 143 and if my industry
^{his} ^{Majty} ^{is} ^{firm} ^{to} ^{him}
 can procure it, it shall be so 373 379 280 39 466 725 339 58.
 Pray persuade my Lord Lieutenant to write a letter of
 acknowledgment to 305, for he is a constant and zealous
 friend to him and almost every day does him the kindest
 offices imaginable. And tell him that I beg of him to write
^{will} ⁱ ^{am} ^{Jones}
 an obliging letter to Sir 808 374 83 381 248, who is his firm
^{power} ^{with} ^(l) ^p ^{me} ^{men}
 friend and has 330 622 827 434 586 466 506 and will be of it
 soon. The Parliament men flock to town apace and with
 great trains of servants. My Lord Chancellor came off yester-
 day at Council with flying colours against Coppinger, and
 the King shewed great kindness to him. Adieu.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, October 17. Kilkenny.—In obedience to the direc-
 tions from the Lords of the Council in their letter of the 6th of
 this month, I have sent over Oliver Plunket, the pretended
 Popish Primate of Ireland, in the custody of George Wakefield,
 the messenger, with orders to attend your lordship with

him to be disposed of as His Majesty and the Lords of the Council shall direct. By letters of the 16th of this month subscribed by me and as many of the Council as were then here, we gave an account of what was done here in the discovery pretended to be made of by David Nash, to which I have nothing yet more to add, but that Donogh Lyne being brought to sign his information, yet by the interposition of a long and hot dispute betwixt him and Nash, his signing was forgotten, but that I have sent to the Sheriff, in whose custody he went hence, and is to remain, till he give good security for his forthcoming to get his hand to his narrative.

GEORGE STAMER to ORMOND.

1680, October 18. Clare Castle.—In obedience to your Grace's commands laid on me when I waited last on your Grace at Kilkenny I do send this account that there are now some rogues in this county who daily commit robberies, stealths and several other outrageous actions, whose names are fflann Naylan. Roger Slattery and Teige Donoghoe with their associates and accomplices, who have on Saturday last at a place called Dromcarrin within this county seized upon three servants belonging to one Mr. Mark Blood, an English gentleman, and no farther distance from this place than three miles, and then dismissed those servants after they had kept them a pretty while, to whom they gave commands on pain of their lives for to carry a message to their master, which was that he should immediately send them a contribution or else they would burn his house and kill a dozen of his cows, and for confirmation of that message sent a skeane as an infallible token, and soon after having no answer from Mr. Blood, did kill four head of his cattle. Those persons have several indictments against them before the Judges of Assizes and are notorious rogues. I therefore humbly pray your Grace for to issue your Grace's Proclamation of Rebellion against them, in hopes they may be brought under the law. I do further pray your Grace for to command six file of foot, a serjeant, and a drum, to be sent to Clare town, and likewise a squadron of horse to the town of Ennis with their proportion of powder, ball and match, where they shall find good quarters, and thereafter I doubt not with God's assistance and your Grace's help for to keep the country in better order than now it stands in, it being my duty in regard the Earl of Thomond hath appointed me his representative as to the Governorship, which may happen in your Grace's memory, my Lord having at Kilkenny there certified so much to your Grace and gave me the honour of kissing your Grace's hands and in hopes of your Grace's further commands concludeth.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, October 23. Dublin.—I send your Grace all the news I had this last packet, and you will find my Lord

Longford has taken a great deal of pains to write that in cipher, which is in almost every newsletter. I had just now, it being of 9 at night, your letters to the King and Duke. I shall punctually observe your commands when I get to London. My sister will be ready to go to sea on Monday, and I intend to go with her, for the dogger carries over the titular Primate, and have no desire to be in the same bottom with him. I send you Mr. Keightly's letter, and one from His Majesty in his favour. I hope you will oblige his lady in it. I was desired by Mr. Whitfield to let you know that Sir John Poyntz is dead, he had his information from Doctor Dainton, who thinks the estate, if any is left, will fall to you.

————— to LORD LANESBOROUGH.

1680, October 23.—This town was never fuller of company, nor those of expectations, how matters will go this sessions. The House of Commons have yet only got their Speaker Williams, of Chester, approved of by His Majesty, these three days taken up in swearing the members of every county, as its first letter lies in the alphabet, and have despatched that prelude to their sitting no farther yet than the letter Duke. But the Lords, who make quicker work with swearing, had a Bill brought in by my Lord Halifax against Popery this day, the severest imaginable, which consists, as I am told, in that none being a Papist shall be capable to inherit any lands as heir to anybody, but the next of blood that's a Protestant shall have it, and in case such Protestant be found to take any composition for such estate, then the informer against him shall have the whole estate. No Papist widow can have a jointure, no Papist practice the law, physic, or any trade, if he's not a stranger, and many more things of this nature, as I am informed. 'Tis thought this will pass, for nobody said a word against it but my Lord Privy Seal, who was laughed at and sat down again.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, October 23. London.—On Thursday the Parliament met, and the Commons being sent for up to the Lords, His Majesty there entertained them with the enclosed gracious speech, which as gracious as it is does not please, because there is a limitation that restrains them from meddling with the succession. I have had this morning discourse with several of the members of different passions, and they unanimously tell me that as soon as they are qualified for business by taking the oaths and test (about which work they will spend at least this whole day), the Duke will be impeached. On Thursday as soon as they returned from the House of Lords, my Lord Russell proposed Mr. Williams, (the Recorder of Chester), for their Speaker, to which the House unanimously agreed without the naming of anyone

else, though Mr. Powell and others were candidates. The Duke by reason of contrary winds could not set sail before yesterday, whence it is conjectured that he cannot possibly be at the end of his voyage before Tuesday night, and I fear that night's packet will carry him ill news. I had this day again some discourse with the Bishop of Rochester about the Bailiff of Westminster's place; in the disposition of which his lordship finds now new difficulty, for it being a judicial as well as ministerial office, he is informed that the Statute passed in Edward the Sixth's time will forfeit any right your Grace can pretend to in the disposition of it, and he fears it may also endanger his and the Chapter's power of disposition too, in regard your Grace had reserved any annuity to yourself of 100*l.* out of the profits of it, for which your Grace has sued Mr. Stroud and obtained a judgment which is now suspended by the writ of error he has brought, so that there will need no other proof of your Grace's making profit of that employment. And though Mr. Stroud's consenting to pay your Grace the hundred pound per annum will also incapacitate him also from ever executing it again, yet his lordship having taken advice of counsel, he is not without hope that the acts of others will not forfeit the right of the Dean and Chapter, but his counsel tell him that this statute does absolutely make void your Grace's grant to Mr. Ellis or anyone else by reason of the former contract your Grace made with Stroud. I am not a proper judge whether this be law or no, but by his lordship's proceedings I perceive all the advantages the law can give him he is resolved to take in affair. For his lordship told me that upon Mr. Ellis's application to him he called a Chapter, and there it was resolved that two of their number should attend their council and advise what was fit for them to do in the case. His lordship further told me that he found Stroud was resolved to bring his case before the Parliament, and avers that when he objected to the clause in his grant, of which now advantage is taken against him, and represented to your Grace the hardship upon him by that clause, he giving Mr. Montague 1,500*l.* for it, besides the 100*l.* per annum to your Grace, your Grace was then pleased to assure him upon your honour that there should never be any advantage taken of it against him, so that he is resolved to be very clamorous in his reflections upon your Grace's breach of promise. For the rest I must refer your Grace to my Lord Arran.

COL. E VERNON to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, October 23. London.—I have your lordship's of the 13th instant; I assure your lordship I have considered my notes and find I wrote four leaves to your lordship more than you received, and being as others were sent out of the country by the By Bag that post the remiscarried, I suppose for the profit of the postage. Your lordship is certainly in

the right that things are in an ill posture, when such inconsiderable persons as myself may be thought useful. I am very well pleased in serving any of quality that will accept of it, and by that condemn themselves for their former actings.

Yesternight the Speaker surprised me and used me with great kindnesses as my old acquaintance once under my charge in the King's service, and constantly my counsel in the Statute and his Grace's upon all occasions at Stafford against the offenders of the forest, and when offered to be retained hath denied it and valued himself as the Duke's counsel. I know him very well, and yet believe nothing can come to his knowledge in relation to his Grace or family but I shall know it; and if he be managed the right may be made serviceable to the Crown. I know he was faithful. Some of his factious friends think my Lord Russell and the rest mistaken in naming him Speaker, fearing he may be shaken. And he was their bold Speaker in their most factious engagements. I believe they will attack the Duke, but I am pretty certain they are not resolved of the way or time, most of the country gentlemen being yet of an opinion to try the Lords first to know what really there is against the Duke, who left this place against their opinion (had he not been commanded), though they believed he would have been committed to the Tower, and his enemies would have endeavoured to have kept him there by differences between the Houses that would have forced a prorogation or dissolution. I think your lordship would be very useful here to your family, but will not advise it, though I believe there is no present danger of any attempt upon your father, though his enemies are bringing the sham plot (as they call it) of Ireland to be interwoven from the beginning with that of England in order to reflect upon the Government.

The Duke of Monmouth and the Duchess of Portsmouth hath had several meetings, and it's said her Grace stated upon terms to have the Duke's agents removed. Our grandees aver they have the Lord D. Lord Treasurer resolutions to tell what he knows, and by that his agents prevail with many to think of a banishment for him, and laws to protect the like pardons. Lord Shaftesbury observed that since the trial of Sir George Wakeman the Plot was looked upon as a predicted plot, but that sham was believed, and moved for a committee to prosecute, which was ordered.

As to my farm in Kilkenny I have ever had and still have a resolution to build me a retirement there. And I was first disappointed by not having money to do it, and since by my not coming over. My desires are to wait upon Lord Arran as much as may be, if Lord Arran have any thoughts of it himself, I know my inclinations are to serve him, and will, and I doubt not but he will receive me if I want a lodging.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, October 23. London.—I question not but your Grace will by this post receive many of these tokens, yet my duty obliges me not to trust to others' diligence. When the King came to that endearing expression of his tenderness of the Protestant religion, the echo was a unanimous hum of applause. Since which the Lords have only read many Bills and named their committees. The Commons have chose Mr. Williams, Recorder of Chester, for their Speaker and presented him, and the King by the Chancellor approved of him, which part he acted with great eloquence. Since which they have only sworn their members, and not yet quite done that. It is thought they will begin where they left. The great Q. is whether the first debate shall affect the Duke of York (who was overruled by the Earls of Essex and Halifax to retire (with his sick Duchess) to Scotland by sea the day before the Parliament met, or the Earl of Danby; tho' many are for the trial of the five Tower Lords, that the bottom of the Plot may be discovered. Resolutions are too uncertain for any man to infer from yesterday what will be done to-morrow. This morning, notwithstanding the King's proclamation to separate all Papists from this city, Mr. Dangerfield seized a priest in the Court of Request, who Dr. Oates knew and called by his name at first sight.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, October 14. London.—My coming lately to town hath made me not so capable of giving your Grace so good an account of our affairs here as otherwise I might have done in these times of news and expectation, but notwithstanding I cannot let slip any occasion of paying my most humble thanks to your Grace for your many favours and particularly that intended me by your Grace upon the last order of suspension designed in Ireland. We have at present very little to do in the Council Chamber, all men's eyes and care being upon the progress of the Parliament, and by this day se'nnight I suppose it will more visibly appear what way they intend to steer. I know your Grace will hear from other hands that his Highness began his voyage towards Scotland on Wednesday morning, but the wind sits so against him that he is still in the river, not being able to make any farther progress. On the Saturday before there was a great debate at the Council Board concerning his going, and the Clerks ordered to withdraw, but it is reported that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Sunderland and eight more were for the Duke's withdrawing, but the Lord Worcester, Lord Clarendon, B. London, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Sec. Jenkins, Lord Chief Justice North, Mr. Seymour were against it. His Majesty then determined the matter, and the Duke prepared for his voyage.

I have herewith enclosed His Majesty's speech at the opening of the Parliament; all that hath hitherto been done

being only the choosing Mr. Williams, of Chester, Speaker, who was proposed by the Lord Russell and chosen *nemine contradicente* and yesterday approved by His Majesty, besides the particular Members of both Houses taking the oaths at Whitehall. There seems a general intention of complying with the Parliament, so that from thence all things are expected.

ORMOND to THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

1680, October 25. Kilkenny.—I have seen a letter from the Bishop of Down to my Lord Primate giving notice of a petition intended by a dean of this kingdom and two gentlemen to be presented to the Parliament complaining of the prejudicial conjunction of more bishoprics than one in one person. I have also seen a copy of my Lord Primate's letter to your Grace upon that subject, to which for the present I can add nothing but my humble thanks to your Grace for your favourable opinion of us that serve His Majesty in this kingdom, which I am sure you will continue till you find us unworthy of it. When I find so much liberty taken in England to censure or rather calumniate the Government, I should wonder if we that derive our authority from it here should scape, and therefore I shall bear my share with patience and not without some satisfaction in the clearness of my conscience and in the reality of my intention to serve the Crown and Church, how weakly soever I shall be able to perform those duties. All that I shall add is to beseech your Grace to be a little watchful that the dean who promotes the petition may not thereby or by any other means (for if I be not mistaken in the man he will stick at none) get into a bishopric or obtain the promise of one.

VISCOUNT LANESBOROUGH to ORMOND.

1680, October 25. Dublin.—I send your Grace the copy of an address said to be made by the Lord Chancellor of England in the name of several Lords of the Council to His Majesty concerning His Royal Highness, whereat I confess I was surprised. It came by the last Friday's packet to some person here whose name the party who gave it me but this morning could not tell me. The packet which came in last night brought me this other paper, which I think it my duty to send your Grace, whose indisposition the news whereof came in this morning, troubles me very much. I beseech God to send you your health and to preserve you in it. The titular Primate went off last night with the Dogger, and Mr. Turner tells me Peter Talbot is past recovery. My Lady Ossory goes on board the yacht at Dunleary this afternoon. If I thought your Grace would make any stay at Grangebeg I would attend you there.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, October 26. London.—Though we have had no Council since my last, yet the proceedings of both Houses

gives me occasion of giving your Grace this account of our proceedings here. This day appeared in the House of Lords one who was formerly Secretary to the late Ambassador of Portingal, by religion a Jew, who gave an account of a discovery he had made in May last to the Earl of Clarendon of a considerable sum of money proffered to him by his master to kill the Earl of Shaftesbury, Oates, Bedloe, and Mr. Arnold. My Lord Clarendon denies that he named any person to him, but owns that there was some general discourse about that time which he had with him; there being likewise something said about the affairs of Ireland, their Lordships ordered that there should be a power given to Mr. Hethrington, Murphy and Mr. FitzGerald to bring over what witnesses they think necessary to lay open the plot of the Papists in Ireland, and likewise that orders should be sent to your Grace for the speedy sending over Oliver Plunket under a safe custody and with great care. In the House of Commons this day, Mr. Dangerfield gave an account of the affair between himself, Mrs. Cellier and Sir Rob. Peyton, in which he mentions some particulars which more immediately reflect upon my Lord Peterborough and my Lord Privy Seal than he before spoke of, and particularly that the last was consenting and advising in the whole carrying on of the business; upon which Sir Rob. Peyton was ordered to withdraw and the House made a vote *nemine contradicente* that all care should be used to hinder the growth of Popery and to prevent a Popish successor to the Crown, and the farther consideration of the two Lords is put off till to-morrow. This, may it please your Grace, is the beginning of our affairs, but the end of them is not easily to be foretold.

EARL OF LONGFORD TO ORMOND.

1680, October 26. London.—I have not these three last packets received any letters from your Grace, nor the two last from my Lord Arran, who I understand by Mr. Ellis and Colonel Vernon in probability is upon his way hither. What I foretold your Grace in my last has this day proved true, the storm rising now very high against the Duke. For Mr. Dangerfield being this day before the Commons has not only accused him (as I am told), not only of the plot in general, but also of employing him to kill the King, telling that it was a work proper for his hand and bidding him to be of courage in the execution of it, assuring him that when the work was done he should be well rewarded for it, giving him in the meantime twenty guineas. He said he was brought to the Duke thrice by my Lord Peterborough. That the first time was to make discovery of the Presbyterian Plot, and that afterwards the Duke proposed to him the killing of the King, and that after my Lord Peterborough should encourage him to go on with it courageously, saying the Duke would be King within a

little time, and would reward him far above what he could possibly suffer by it. As to the Sham Plot (as some call it), he accused my Lord Privy Seal of being privy to it, and of having intercourse with my Lady Powys about it. After he had made his narrative, the House of Commons voted that they would take into their consideration the suppression of Popery and the prevention of a Popish successor.

In the House of Lords one Berry, a Portuguese Jew, gave information that he had money given him by the last Portugal Ambassador (whose servant he was) to kill my Lord Shaftesbury, Dr. Oates and Mr. Bedloe, and said he had formerly confessed so much upon oath to my Lord Clarendon, while his lordship was chairman of the committee, which it seems his lordship did not impart to the committee. I am told there was this day some mention made of the Irish Plot in the House of Commons, but no day appointed for calling the witnesses before them. I had almost forgotten to acquaint your Grace that Mr. Dangerfield accused Sir Robert Peyton for having an hand in the Sham Plot, and instanced in so many circumstances that notwithstanding all that Sir Robert could say for himself he was ordered to withdraw, and it is believed that he will be expelled the House. The enclosed is for my Lady Duchess from our new convert. I suppose your Grace will receive from Mr. Ellis an account of what discourse he had this morning with Mr. David Fitzgerald. Sir James Butler was this day with me and tells me that that statute of Edward the Sixth which the Bishop of Rochester insisted upon the other day to me will not affect your Grace, but it is evident your Grace will have as much hardship put upon you in that affair as can be contrived.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, October 27. Nantwich.—We landed this morning about eleven at Dapool, and there I left my sister Ossory, after I had borrowed a coach for her to go to Liverpool ferry. We had yesterday for about six hours so violent a storm, the wind at S.E., that it split both main sail and fore sail, and all we hoped for was to make the Isle of Man, but it pleased God the wind grew both calmer and fairer for us, so that all the company got well and safe on shore. I have got no more news at Chester than what I found in the newsletter, only a gentleman that left London on Monday last told me that my Lord Ranelagh is in a very desperate condition, for the doctor had given him three preparations of mercury one after the other, and none of them wrought with him. I am afraid I shall not get to London before Saturday night, for the pursuivant is gone but three or four hours before me post (with his prisoner) eight horses in company. Tho' I was not sick at sea, yet I am very giddy now, therefore I hope you will pardon the blots of this letter.

DONOUGH LEYNE to CAPT. DEURY WRAY.

1680, October 29.—I send you my narrative touching the proceedings in relation to the late discoveries. I send you also a copy of my letter to Sir John Davies. I shall desire you not to publish either for fear it might prevent the commission desired, which will make out the irregularities of Odell. There are other witnesses to prove every particular of this accusation, so far as you are concerned, to the full of very credible persons. [Encloses the following letter] and narrative.

DONOUGH LEYNE to SIR JOHN DAVYS.

I have since my coming home from Kilkenny (according to order) subscribed to my examination delivered before His Grace the Lord Lieutenant and Council, and have also been examined before the High Sheriff of the county of Limerick, John Mansfield, and John Croker, esquires, wherein I have not for some reasons so fully explained myself as I ought to have done. The reason I have not so fully done it before the Justices was the apprehension of fear that possessed and still do possess my thoughts, occasioned by the threats of particular persons to do me great mischiefs, but these fears being now somewhat removed, and having withal fully recollected myself, I humbly desire the honour to sue to his Grace and the Council for a commission to just and indifferent persons to take my further examination, and the examinations of such other persons as I shall name unto them, with full power by their warrant to compel them to appear before them to give in their evidence touching such matters as may relate to my examination for proof thereof, wherein I shall declare the truth more at large in every particular and more fully unravel the matter, not differing from what I have before delivered. This I most humbly crave in regard of my weakness and inability to travel far to deliver before that high and honourable presence what I have further to say in discharge of my conscience before God and my allegiance to His Majesty. I most humbly beg your honour's favour and pardon herein.

(Copia vera.)

"NARRATIVE" of DONOUGH LEYNE.

That I was present when David Nash's information was taken, that he was therein surprised in many circumstances by John Odell and John Massie, directing him by leading questions, particularly in the mentioning of persons' names they would have included therein to make it agree in some sort with David FitzGerald's information, and that in relation specially to the Lord of Brittas, Sir John FitzGerald and others, they would also have the Lord of Clare together with the Knight of the Glin and Thomas Browne of the Hospital therein named.

That the said Odell tempted me with the offer of 300*l*. and also with the promise of procuring me an annual

pension, giving many good treats in his own house to draw me in to witness and swear to the said information, and at other times, when he found me unwilling, threatening me with imprisonment and other corporal punishment if I did not.

That for my further encouragement the said John Massie, being one of the said Odell's chief instruments to promote this design, assured me that John Bourke of Cahirmoyle's Estate, and Eustace White's should be equally divided between the said D. Nash, John Massie and myself as our rewards for this service, and that he was moreover to have a troop of horse himself.

That when William Stokes was drawn in to be a discoverer he had large promises made unto him, and first coming in brogues, he had a pair of shoes bought for him and was promised to be furnished with a horse and boots soon after, and being arrested for debt after his coming to Limerick, he was released, and being afterwards brought upon his examination, I myself with others were employed to prepare him with plenty of wine, and being then somewhat intoxicated was then called upon his examination, and Nash's information being read unto him, he was urged to specify three or four of the persons (therein mentioned to have been parties in the plot) or that his intelligence had been insignificant, which he could not be persuaded to; nevertheless what was writ down as to other matters he was prevailed with to swear and subscribe to, being drunk, as aforesaid.

That John Massie carried me along with him to one John Nash, living upon Tirenuhillie, and there was then a proffer of 5*l.* and a cow made unto him to witness the said D Nash's information, and that the said John Nash made answer that for 5*l.* he would swear anything.

That John Odell went to the prison where D. Nash was, and (in my own presence) pressed very earnestly to impeach or concern the Earl of Orrery in his information, and that he would undertake he should have back his cows or cow for cow in their room.

That John Odell disgusting that his Grace had not answered some letters of his concerning the plot, said since thereby he perceived his Grace had slighted the business, he wished he had ne'er meddled in it, but within three hours after he told me that had seven of the best in Limerick to back him.

That being by order of the Lord Lieutenant since my coming from Kilkenny bound over to appear before his Grace and Council at four days' notice, Odell notwithstanding sent a warrant for me signed by himself and another justice, and when I came before him he would compel me to disown the allegations against him, otherwise he would send me to prison, and when I told him he could not lawfully so do, being the King's evidence, he then said he had as much power there as his Grace had in Kilkenny.

[Signed] Don. Legus.

That John Odell sent a warrant for me, and being before him, he told me that he heard that I had been tampering with some of the impeached persons, whereupon he threatened to send me to jail if I did not swear to employ my utmost endeavours to promote the discovery of the plot, and thereafter to reveal unto them whatever should be spoken unto me by any of the said persons impeached, until I were called upon to give my evidence before the Lord Lieutenant and Council, which I confess I did and performed, except what was contained in my testament left behind me with my confessor.

That the said John Odell did not only publish Nash's information, but also shewed the said information to such witnesses as he would have sworn, to direct them what they should swear to, and did also shew and read the examination of one to the other, and did accuse his Grace the Lord Lieutenant of saying that these discoveries of Nash seemed probable, but that those of FitzGerald he never gave credit to, taking him to be a sort of a wild hare-brained fellow; the examination of William Stokes he delivered to John Massie, who gave a copy thereof to one of the supposed conspirators. As to what related to Wm. Stokes in my examination, it was no more but that he told me he had been riding about to discover how the subjects stood affected to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and how to the Duke of Monmouth, upon the dangerous sickness that seized His Majesty some years since. These violent proceedings so much terrified me that I did at the beginning and since seem somewhat to countenance and feed them with some expectations of giving testimony to what they would be at, when I should be brought before his Grace, to the end that in due season a full discovery might be made of the sinister practices that were in hand for taking away the lives of His Majesty's loyal subjects.

[EARL OF ARLINGTON] to ORMOND.

1680, October 30. Whitehall.—At my arrival here from the country I wrote to your Grace which was my last, and shall continue doing so as any occasion offers, but dare not charge myself with the burthen of sending you the common news, presuming you have it from hands which transmit it exactly and regularly to you. I had from Mr. Ellis his directions how to negotiate the Marquis de Grana's money, which together with the original bill of exchange I have put into Sir Stephen Fox's hands, who will be best able to bring that matter to pass.

Since I have received one of your Grace's of the 14th by Sir Richard Stephens, who shewing me at the same time some of yours to himself, I knew what value I ought to put upon the gentleman as there is occasion of using him in your

concerns and under that notion have presented him to kiss the King's hand, and for my first entrance with him have directed him to find out what and where the grounds lie of the great exceptions against your Grace amongst Parliament men, of which he hath given me already some account, and I presume by this post will do it to yourself; the same diligence I use amongst other of your friends and as occasion shall serve will give my Lord of Arran notice of all that comes to my knowledge, who, I hear, is arrived and hath been to seek me, but yet I have not seen him at three this afternoon. I likewise hear my Lady of Ossory is come as far as Knowsley.

Since my arrival here my Lady Mary Cavendish hath handed to my acquaintance one Mr. Charlton, with a lame leg, known, as he says, to your Grace, and professing to be much your servant. He is very conversant with the most shining and eminent Parliament men, so I have likewise recommended your public concerns there to him, wherein he promises to do you the best service he can. His business to me was that having been conversant this summer with my cousin, Simon Bennet, the rich man of Buckinghamshire, and particularly in transacting the marriage betwixt a kinsman likewise of mine and Simon Bennet's eldest daughter, in which I have likewise concerned myself some years past, this Mr. Charlton hath become acquainted with my proposition the last year for my young lord of Ossory, to which I suppose your Grace is not a stranger, in which he offers me his service and tells me the mother who rules the roost in the house likes it very well, as likewise now at last, after many years difficulty, the marrying of the eldest daughter to my cousin Bennet, who is in remainder the heir to the estate, which is above 6,000*l.* per annum, with at least 100,000*l.* pounds in ready money. The land she seems to wish may go with the eldest daughter, and the money with the youngest, who is much the handsomer. Now if your Grace approve of my entertaining further this matter, you must be pleased to own so much to me in a letter I may produce to authorise me to treat it, and a little kind mention of Mr. Charlton therein may be of good use for that and other matters. After I had written thus far I met with my Lord of Arran, to whom I shewed what I have here written and told him all I know of matters here.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, October 30.—I can add little to the enclosed votes, only that hourly come in new discoverers and new discoveries, so that now it is determined the prosecution of the Plot and trial of the Five Lords shall be next undertaken. Dangerfield hath been severe against the Duke of York before the Committee, affirming that he gave him great encouragement to go on vigorously to kill the King, and gave him out of his own pocket twenty guineas, and that my Lord Peterboro told him the

Duke loved a brisk man and would reward him, and that Mrs. Cellier had sent him to my Lord Anglesey to know when it would be seasonable to broach the Presbyterian sham plot. They of the Committee give us expectation of strange things to come forth and of strange actors in them. Here also all votes will be printed, and then with less difficulty we shall be able to treat our friends with them. My own distemper so continues that it forfeits me also to a lappassit of writing legible. Whilst I am able I will put my best leg foremost, but I am told I must hasten into the country for air and exercise as the most natural physic for me. In the meantime I will continue my inquisitiveness, that I may be the better able to render myself the more useful to your Grace.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, October 30. London.—Last night my Lord Arran arrived here very seasonably for your Grace's service, for it has surprised your Grace's enemies, and I am confident given a check to some of their designs against you. But Mathew Barry's slowness in not preparing the narrative of the proceedings upon the plot there has for the present in some measure disarmed him. Therefore I beseech your Grace to send it away with all expedition attested by my Lord Bishop of Meath and Sir John Davys, for that will be an evident vindication of the Government there in their proceedings upon the discovery of the plot, and will be a conviction of the witnesses' falsehood, if they should vary from the truth of what they affirmed there. I had the good fortune to be present in the King's Bedchamber when my Lord Arran kissed His Majesty's hand. His reception of my lord was as obliging and kind as ever I saw him give to any. And after he had read your Grace's letter he retired with my Lord Arran into an inner room and there discoursed with him (after he had shut and locked the door himself) near half an hour, an account whereof I doubt not but my Lord gives your Grace himself by this night's packet. Now his lordship is come my heart is at some ease, and I shall now be soon at liberty to apply myself to my journey towards Ireland, and shall by Tuesday's packet give your Grace an account of the certain day I intend to be at Holyhead. Mr. Mulys tells me he sends your Grace every post the journals of both Houses, which saves me the labour of giving your Grace the daily proceedings of each House. All the new members herd together, insomuch that very few of the old, except my Lord Russell, Colonel Titus, Sir Francis Winnington, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Harbord, and Mr. Colt, will be listened unto. Colonel Vernon at my instigation, instead of going for Ireland, came up hither to serve your Grace (for in this conjuncture I thought it necessary to muster up all our forces), and therefore while he is engaged in your Grace's service here it will be very severe in your Grace to permit

him to be a sufferer upon your Grace's account in Butler of Ruskoe's suit, about which Mr. Solicitor has his direction to apply to your Grace. Mr. Sampson in his information to the Committee of the Lords has loaded my Lord Chancellor, having told their Lordships that when he was first in your Grace's closet to give your Grace information against my Lord Tyrone, my Lord Chancellor being the only man then attending your Grace, he in his information mentioned the Duke as head of the Plot in Ireland, upon which he says my Lord Primate took him by the hand, led him to the window, and advised him not to mention the Duke, saying it would be his ruin if he did it. This information amongst other things was given by way of discourse, which the Lords directed him to put into a narrative in writing and sign to it, and I suppose he has this day given it in to their Lordships.

Some of your Grace's friends here wish that since Sir Francis Wythens has fallen under the severe displeasure of the House of Commons he might be prevailed upon to quit his Deputy Steward's place of Westminster and resign it to some friend of his, because they apprehend the Commons will take it ill of your Grace to continue him in that employment after so severe a mark of their displeasure against him. But if this can be fairly effected it must be done at his suit to your Grace, concerning which I will discourse with Sir James Butler. Sir Hen. Ingoldsby has a great mind to be called upon by the Lords to give an account of his observations in Ireland since the discovery of the Plot, in which I presume my Lord Arran's arrival has somewhat abated his mettle, though he said he was glad my Lord Arran was come over to be a witness of what he had to say. Sir James Butler the other day was desired by Justice Warcup to set his hand to a warrant pursuant to the order of the Lords for the searching for Irishmen, at which he seemed to hesitate, saying there were hands enough to the warrant, and it would be an hard thing to put it upon him, because he being of that country himself had many relations there, and it would expose him much to the censure of his countrymen to have an hand in the seizing of them and committing them to prison. Upon which Mr. Warcup told him, "Well, say you nothing of it, and I will not," which Sir James looked upon as a friendly and very civil act. But within an hour after Sir James heard that complaint was made to the Lords that he had refused to sign the warrant in obedience to their order. Mr. Plunkett with his six attendants came to town last night. There is no account yet come of the Duke's arrival in Scotland, but it is concluded he got safe there, because the weather and wind has been fair these ten days past.

SIR JAMES BUTLER to ORMOND.

1680, October 30. Lincoln's Inn.—I did not think fit to acquaint your Grace with the death of Sir John Poyntz

(which happened lately in the Temple, where he lodged) till I had informed myself how he had disposed of his estate, conceiving your Grace to be his heir at law. I find in April last he made his will, by which he left his seat and estate in the county of Gloucester to one Mr. Poyntz Porter, of Warwickshire, his brother by the mother's side, in fee paying his debts. And in case he should refuse it upon those terms, then he devised it to your Grace upon the same condition. But about ten hours before his death, being in a very weak and senseless condition, he was persuaded by one Hawkins, a farmer that lives in the Old Bayly, and others that came along with him, to seal a deed which they brought engrossed and prepared for that purpose, whereby he sold his estate to the said Hawkins and another for the consideration of 5s., upon trust to pay all his debts and 2,000*l.* to his lady in lieu of her jointure by the sale thereof. The debts are computed to amount to about 16,000*l.*, and I am informed the estate is worth more. This account I conceived was my duty to give your Grace, not knowing but that you might have a desire to purchase it, in regard it has been an ancient seat long in that family, so near related to your Grace. If your Grace be so inclinable I think the best way is to take in the first mortgage of Sir James Smith, an Alderman of London, which is near 7,000*l.*, and to pay off the rest at leisure. When your Grace shall please to signify your pleasure herein, it shall be obeyed.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, October 30. London.—Meeting with the votes of the House as I travelled on the road, I thought it necessary to make what haste I could, and I lost no time, for I got here yesternight, and this morning I waited upon His Majesty, who received me with great kindness, and gave me leave to have a pretty long discourse with him in private, the whole will be too long for me to put in cipher, besides you have heard much to that purpose before from Lord Chamberlain, Lord Longford, and Lord Granard, what is new and what I shall communicate to none here is 373: 679: 31: 206: 207: 800; 678: the 330: 40: 65: 425: 84: 770: 33: 57: 84: 26: 770: 33: 57: 84: 377: 734: 810: and that 508: 734: 39: 279: 718: 734: 796: should be able 725: 636: 468: 769: 566: 734: 45: 40: 54: 36: 42: 431: 204: 585: 33: 841: and his 49: 39: 36: 42: 59: 118: 735: 312: 734: 63. This and much more of this kind I had in charge to say to you, which I have not time to put in cipher, having been late at Court. From Whitehall, after I had paid my respects to my Lord Sunderland, I went to the House, and being told by the Clerk of the Parliament that I might sit without a

writ after taking the test, I sat in my place ; but somebody informing that I had not brought a writ, I was forced to withdraw, and a writ is ordered to be given me when they sit again, which will not be before Wednesday next. All the Lords of your acquaintance inquired very kindly after you, and are very glad that I am here to inform them better than they find they have been hitherto of the state of affairs in that kingdom, amongst them my Lord Faulkenbridge and Lord Carlisle : they both took me aside to discourse with them. I am very sorry that I brought not some narrative along with me, for it would have been of great use to us, and my Lord Chamberlain is of that opinion, too, and that I should have delivered an account first and not let your adversaries begin, for my Lord Lovelace told the Committee for Examinations that he knew a person of great quality and estate in the kingdom of Ireland who would inform them, he being lately come over, of the miscarriages of the Government since the discovery of the Plot. Who this person should be I cannot guess, but some think it is Cap. Nicholls. Sampson has lately informed against my Lord Chancellor that when your Grace and he were together examining him about the plot, he was going to swear something against the Duke, but my Lord Chancellor held him by the hand and told him if he said anything of that he would be undone. This he would have sworn before the Committee, but he is ordered to put it in writing against Wednesday, and then I believe I shall be added to that Committee, but I find he has a great many of your friends that are his enemies and will not stick to him, but I will do him all the right I am able when any opportunity offers. Mr. Hyde and I are to come to an *éclaircissement* at his desire. What he says shall be imparted to you.

My sister Cavendish tells me, and I suppose she informs you likewise, that the report about my nephew is very warm now here. When the Bishop of Oxford comes to town, I will appear more if necessary in the matter.

ORMOND to EARL OF BURLINGTON.

1680, October 31. Dublin.—Tho' I received your lordship's of the 12th at Kilkenny, yet it was just upon my remove to the station I am fixt to, so long as it shall please God and the King. My cousin Fitzgerald met me in my way hither, and says he will pursue your lordship's affair as soon as he comes to town, it shall meet with no delay on my part nor any other of your affairs proper to my province. Overtures of discovery of the Plot in this kingdom have of late multiplied upon us ; they are chargeable to us ; how profitable they will prove to the public in the work they have undertaken I cannot judge. It is most rationally to be believed that there was and is a concurrence betwixt the disaffected of both kingdoms to subvert Government and religion, and I would as gladly find it out and prevent it as

any man ; my freehold, and that a better than the King of France or the Papists would allow me if either of them were masters, being at stake. The information against the Earl of Tyrone taken by the good Bishop of Dromore and other Justices of Peace, will prove nothing, nor will he have much cause to brag of his convert, for I suspect he is not the man he calls himself, but takes a name or function that belongs not to him. I am just now told by a gentleman newly landed that at his leaving Whitehall the 24th of this month, the report was warm that my Lord Primate and I are to be impeached ; his particular informer averring that he had heard the articles read, but was sworn to secrecy, but in general they consisted of concealing or faint prosecution of the discovery of the Plot in Ireland, and another says for corresponding with France. If they had gone further and charged me with conspiring with the Great Turk or Mogul I doubt not but witnesses might be found to prove it, but I can never suspect either the justice or prudence of four or five hundred English gentlemen so much as to be greatly alarmed at it.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680, November 1.—The Dean of Limerick returns hence with his degree, according to your Excellency's recommendation. He will be able to give so full an account of all the concernments of this place that I shall not need to give you the trouble of a narrative. The best relation which your Excellency can have from hence will be from my Lord Ossory, who, I hope, is so tractable and obedient as may speak him to have resided some time in a place of rule and order. He is now in an age whereof every moment should be well husbanded, his future sufficiency depending in a great degree on the foundations which are now laid. The times look black enough and it will be necessary for him by courage and counsel to be able to defend himself and the public and tread the steps which your Excellency has led thro' a false and tumultuous world. Your little kinsman, my Lord Clancarty, is very persuasible and good natured, so that I hope by God's blessing I may give a desirable account of him. The like expectation I have of Mr. Buroh. My Lord Courcy is almost a grown man, and will speedily be ready for the advantages of travel, but he entirely refers himself to your Excellency's disposal, and will, I hope, render himself capable of your Excellency's favour. I beseech Almighty God to give health and blessing to your Excellency.

ORMOND to EARL OF CONWAY.

1680, November 1. Dublin.—I am humbly to thank you for the intimation you gave my Lord Primate, wherein I am concerned with his Grace. I have very ill fortune if I come

to be suspected for correspondence or kindness towards France. I have heretofore suffered for want of that complacency I am now charged with, as is very well known, and to none better than to my Lord of Shaftesbury. By the Irish Papists I have suffered more than any man could do that 'scaped with life and is restored to a fortune, having been scandalized, persecuted and betrayed by them at home and abroad, and that now I should grow fond or become reconciled to either of those interests is so incredible (if I am allowed to be a rational creature) that I should think fifty witnesses ought not to be believed in the case unless they bring other proofs than oaths, which are so cheap a commodity in this climate.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, November 2. London.—The bearer, Sir Robert Hamilton, who goes post from hence to-morrow, carries with him a reference to your Grace from His Majesty, who is so much concerned for him that he spoke to me last night to recommend it particularly to you to show him favour in it. I am informed from many good hands that he has been very just and serviceable to you upon all occasions in this conjuncture, therefore if the matter is feasible he deserves your favour. Mr. Hyde has been to see me since my last to you on purpose to discourse with me upon the matter I formerly hinted to you, and I spoke my mind very freely to him and set off Sir James in his colours, and told him that you wondered how so understanding a man as he is should be governed as you were informed he was by such a mountebank as Shaen, and that if his desire was to put by the sitting of our Parliament he might have found out a better way than putting him upon it, that he might have writ his mind to you, and it is likely if his reasons were good you might agree with him. He made the greatest professions of kindness to you and your family imaginable, and protested that he was not at all governed by Shaen in that or any other matter, nor would by him or anybody else ever be persuaded to do you an unkindness, saying these very words that he should be a very ungrateful rascal if he did, but that he then thought Sir James's proposal was a good one, and that it was not convenient to have a Parliament sitting there and here at the same time, but upon the whole that it was always intended the matter should be left entirely to you, but owned he was much to blame that he did not write to you, but he depended upon your thinking him so entirely yours that he thought you would dispense with that formality. I seemed to be very well pleased with his answer, and assured him I believed you would be so too, but I am afraid that before this session is over I shall be forced for your vindication to insist upon that of putting off our Parliament, for I find the main business if not the only one

they will lay to your charge will be the ill posture you are in to make a defence against an invasion, for which the supply expected from a Parliament was propounded by you as a remedy.

Monsieur de Lorche, who was General of the Horse to my brother, I am afraid does not go away well satisfied, and really in the opinion of all people that know him he is a very honest and useful man in such an employment. My Lord Chamberlain, as well as I, are of opinion that he should have had many of the things belonging to the stables that are taken from him. They may be valued, and I believe a hundred pound will be the most they will be esteemed at. It is much wondered at by many people in town that my brother's body has not yet received the ceremony of Christian burial, it may be done so privately as nobody may know it, and that will not hinder your intentions of removing him when you think fit. I am sure till that is done my sister ought not to come hither.

Mrs. Hublethorne has got a reference to you about her pension; she is very poor. Fitzpatrick, who is an ensign in the army, has a colours at Tangier, so that his in Ireland you may be pleased to dispose of to Beverly if you think fit. Sir Robert will be with you very near as soon as the post, so that I may be excused from writing this night by the post. I suppose you will hear of the death of my Lord Ogle, and the birth of a son to my Lord Russell, who is now the governing man in the House of Commons; he professeth great kindness to you.

HENRY JONES, BISHOP OF MEATH, to [FRANCIS AND DEBORAH] ANNESLEY.

1680, November 2. Dublin.—Dear son and daughter Annesley, I received your last and rejoice thereby to find all your welfares. My former to you was directed as from Dublin, being then at Osbaston, and that day setting forth hitherward, so as I could not write so positive concerning things here at that time. Coming hither I find it not convenient to take my measures alone without the advice of one or both of you being here on the place, which I suppose may be this term, to which I refer the consideration when and how to be ordered with best advantage.

Hanlon's paper I received in yours which was read in Council this day, my orders are to assure him of pardon on the terms formerly proposed, his declaring himself and assuring the Government of his reality in first bringing in or cutting off some of the principal Tories such as are proclaimed or notoriously known to be such, after which the pardon shall be for him and his friends, they undertaking what they promise of freeing the country of Tories, etc. They speak of a petition to the Lord Lieutenant to that purpose, which I desire may be prepared and signed by them. All

this must be carried on with secrecy, otherwise they may not be in condition to act against the Tories, who are not yet suspicious of them. I observed that Hanlon's paper which you last sent and is before mentioned was dated the last of September, which yet came not to my hand until yesterday. The reason of the delay I would understand, and the reason of my inquiry in it is that I doubted Hanlon's interpreting his having sent that his paper so long since and nothing answered by me to his satisfaction to have been neglect in me, and that therefore he had changed the hand from me to the Bishop of Clogher to appear for him, concerning which there was a like paper as that from you sent from him to the Bishop of Clogher, and yesterday shewed to my Lord Lieutenant by the Lord Primate. In other things I refer to the enclosed, and desiring God's blessing on you and yours, rest, etc.

EARL OF LONGFORD TO ORMOND.

1680, November 2. London.—There is an account come from Scotland of the Duke's safe arrival on Tuesday last, and it is believed his reception was very great because His Majesty's letter directed it should be so. But while he is there entertained as a Prince of his birth, your Grace will find by the votes this day of the House of Commons (which Mr. Mulys tells me he constantly sends your Grace) how he is otherwise treated here. Matters are now brought to a crisis, and from the resolutions taken upon this day's proceedings it may easily be concluded whether the Parliament be long lived.

Yesterday there was held at my Lord Burlington's house a Committee for the Irish Affairs, where were present besides my Lord Burlington, my Lord Shaftesbury, my Lord Essex and my Lord Faulconberg, and (as I am told) Mr. Fitzgerald, Sampson and Bourke were with them, but what was done there I cannot learn. My Lord Arran wants very much the narrative which Mr. Barry's laziness disappointed him of at his embarking, for the Committee of the Lords drive on the examination of the Plot in Ireland in which your Grace's enemies hope to pinch you. And that narrative would prevent that mischief by giving the true state of proceedings there, therefore I beseech your Grace if it be not already sent to hasten it to my Lord Arran. My Lord has in hands the abstract of your Grace's letters to Mr. Secretary Coventry, my Lord Danby, and my Lord Essex about the meeting of the Parliament there, to justify your Grace in the constant representations you have made of the necessity of putting that kingdom in a posture of defence to oppose foreign invaders and intestine rebellion, which will answer the clamour is made against your Grace for the defenceless condition the kingdom is now in. I intend on Monday next at furthest to begin my journey towards Ireland and resolve to be at Beaumaris by this day fortnight. And therefore

beg the favour of your Grace that the yacht may meet me there at that time. I am told your Grace may peruse the enclosed to Mrs. Preston. The person whom my Lord Lovelace moved should be brought to their Lordships to give them an account of the extravagant proceedings in Ireland since the discovery of the plot is Sir Henry Ingoldsby, who is to be introduced to-morrow morning. And upon this occasion your Grace will judge how necessary the narrative would have been to have satisfied their Lordships of your proceedings there and to have contradicted any unjust reflections Sir Henry Ingoldsby may make. Sir Robert Hamilton has expressed so much zeal and duty for your Grace since his being here that in justice to him I cannot but recommend to your Grace a concern of his, which is now referred to your Grace. But His Majesty's pleasure in it would have been more absolutely signified to your Grace had not his respect to your Grace chose this more dutiful method of bringing his affair before your Grace, from whose favour he will never appeal in any concern of his.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, November 2. London.—Yesterday was a day of as great exaltation to the Bedford as dejection to the New-Castle family, my Lord Russell having a son born, and the Duke his only son, my Lord Ogle, died: his death assigned to this new disease, one greatly lamented by all people, being a marvellous brisk forwardly young man. Daily dining with him at his brother Albemarle's at Newmarket made me known to him. His widow adds to her own vast estate 5,000*l.* per annum jointure out of his father's. It is not too early to wish, tho' it be to propose, my Lord Ossory his successor. I am sure my small endeavours should be racked to the utmost to contribute to it. These two days votes I enclose. This day my Lord Russell started the Q[uestion] about the Bill of excluding the Duke personally from the succession. Tom Thinne seconded. It met with more opposition than the proposers expected, first Mr. Hyde, then Mr. Garroway, then Mr. Seymour, Sir Richard Grimes, Mr. Finch, etc., but neither art nor eloquence could serve to stem the tide, but when the Q[uestion] came to be put it had but only Harry Goring's single No. The Lords have not sat of late, but do to-morrow. The other House have renewed an old resolution of Queen Elizabeth's time; that in defence of the King's person, the Government, and Protestant religion they will stand by him, and that if any mischief shall befall His Majesty's person, they will revenge it on the Papists. I see there is such an antipathy against Popery that every one strives to appear with the greatest indignation against. Those who opposed the Duke's Bill would have compounded and willingly have consented to a Bill against a Popish successor, provided the Duke might not be named, but all expedients were poison not antidotes.

If my child (Gustavus Fleetwood), for so I account him, should misbehave himself, I beg your Grace's mercy for him for his father's sake and his who intercedes for him.

Postscript.—London, Nov. 2, '80.—I bless God I am much recovered from my distemper, yet it hath not wholly left me, so that I am in a condition of obeying your Grace's commands had I the honour to receive them.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, November 3. London.—The affairs of the Parliament so take up the time at present that there is very little done in the Council Chamber, but the great question concerning the succession was this day debated in the House of Commons, and in conclusion a vote passed for the bringing a Bill to exclude the Duke of York from the succession of the Crown, and it is expected that to-morrow morning the Bill will be brought into that House. In the House of Lords there is great expectation of one who is represented to be a person that hath borne considerable employments in the kingdom of Ireland, who is to-morrow to appear before the Committee of Examinations, and there give evidence of the Plot in Ireland, with some pretended discouragements that the witnesses have met with upon revealing the same. I should be sorry to prejudice any man with a false judgment, but it is believed that the person is Sir Harry Ingoldsby. This day their Lordships sent for the copies of the examinations in the Clerk of the Council's hand relating to Oliver Plunket, which were accordingly sent them, the originals being formerly with your Grace. I had yesterday the honour first to kiss my Lord of Arran's hands upon his coming to town, and humbly beg the continuance of your Grace's good opinion, which I shall always with greatest industry and sincerity endeavour to deserve.

SAME to SAME.

1680, November 6. London.—I know your Grace will have an account of what passes in the House of Lords from better hands and a particular of the examinations that have been concerning the plot in Ireland, which hath lately taken up most of their Lordship's time, and this day in Council upon an address from their Lordships, there is ordered a letter to your Grace for the sending hither in custody the Lord Brittas, Colonel Lacy, St. John Fitzgerald and Lt. Bradley, and that Sir Tho. Southwell be summoned to attend their Lordships. Mr. Attorney General was also ordered to have money in his hands from the Treasury to defray the charges of the witnesses that shall come out of Ireland. After which His Majesty pricked the sheriffs, which was the chief business of this day at Council. The Dean and Chapter of Westminster have not yet removed Mr. Stroude from his place of bayliffe, or returned their answer concerning it to His Majesty, which the King taking notice of appointed my Lord Chamberlain

to speak with the Bishop of Rochester to-morrow about it. The House of Commons this day read the Bill against the Duke of York the second time, and on Monday morning next the House is to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the Bill.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, November 6. London.—Thursday and this day were taken up by the House of Lords in examining the witnesses concerning the Irish Plot. Murphy was the first examined and was the only witness that reflected upon you. One part was that the titular Primate Plunkett told him he received money from you, which question being asked Plunkett he utterly denied and said he had less encouragement from you than the two former Chief Governors, Lord Berkeley and Essex, which I observed Lord Essex did not like. Another thing was that one Father Ronan Maginn would have made a discovery to you, as the said Maginn told him, but you, instead of hearkening of him, got him sent beyond sea, where he died. He brought the King into the Plot with you. He complained also of your usage in relation to Smith and Baker. David Fitzgerald gave great satisfaction to the House and was heard with more attention than anybody except Plunkett, who went beyond our expectation. Fitzgerald appealed to me for to give a character of him, that he might not pass in the world for the other David Fitzgerald, in which I satisfied him and gave him a fair character as I did the contrary of the other Fitzgerald, also Egan. He said something more than he did in his examination before you, which was that a cabal as the confederates told him, was held in relation to the Plot at Dublin, and was told that Col. Fitzpatrick, Sir Edward Scott, Col. Dempsey, Col. Talbot, Peter Talbot, Primate Plunkett and others that he has forgot were amongst them. Upon which we expected that Fitzpatrick would have been secured, and I expected that after all the witnesses were heard, my Lord Shaftesbury would have branched it against you upon that very deposition of Murphy, who, because the House could not understand what he said was allowed to swear a written examination, which he had got a school-master in Southwark to write for him, but it ended in a motion that a conference should be desired with the Commons upon the business of the Irish Plot on Monday next. I must observe to you, and will do it to the House before they send for to have that conference, that though the Committee appointed for these matters have all the papers, examinations and letters transmitted to you, and the Board either to the Secretaries or the Council, they have not read one of them, as their clerk told me this afternoon, but depend upon the witnesses' new examinations. Burke, Macnamara, and Sampson have sworn bloodily against my Lord Anglesey,

but especially Macnamara. By the next post you shall have copies of all their depositions. Sampson swears that my Lord Chancellor hindered him from making discoveries against the Duke by taking him aside, and telling him that he would be undone if he did. This I hinted in my last, but was not sure of it until I heard him swear it this day. Most of them took occasion to appeal to me in their examinations, when if they had thought of looking over the papers transmitted, they might have satisfied themselves. Murphy, Burke and Sampson have all complained against Sir John Davys, whom I advise should come over speedily. My Lord Chancellor nor he have not so great an enemy as my Lord Burlington. I hope you will send him with all things necessary. I will not trouble you farther in this, because I intend to write to himself. My Lord Brittas, Colonel Lacy and Sir John Fitzgerald are ordered to be sent for in custody, and Sir Thomas Southwell because he has a very good estate is only summoned to appear. I trouble not with the journals of either House, those I suppose you have from other hands.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, November 6. Dublin.—I have yours of the 30th of the last, written, as you say, in haste, for the material part I could not perfectly read, nor can I comprehend of whom it is that 373 gives so extraordinary a character. The rest, I think, I guess at with the help of what is out of cipher. If you make use any more of that way of writing, you must take more leisure and care that your figures be plain. I confess the cipher is the worst I ever saw to be written or read. Our narrative goes on but slowly; yesterday I quickened the committee, and they were as well instructed in the method as the Council could do it. What your brother gave in the last Parliament was so far very well done, and sure it may be found if well sought for by the clerk. Here we cannot find it. My Lord Chief Justice Keating says he sent soon after you something he judged might be of use. The two Lords you mention and many more can remember that whilst the foundation of all that is excepted against was laying and the designs brought to conclusions of war and peace, I had no share in the Councils, but had liberty to bowl and play at cards. I believe if you had been prepared for it you might with the King's leave have offered such an account as my Lord Chamberlain would have been glad had been brought in. But tho' proceedings are very quick at the first meeting of the Parliament, yet I cannot doubt but that where anything reflects on men of quality and some repute in the world they will have time to be heard, and tho' an affirmative on oath can hardly be disproved by negative testimony, yet in some cases it may and has been.

If Captain Nichols be my Lord Lovelace's person of great quality and estate tho' it should be sworn the contrary may

be easily proved, I cannot swear that there passed no such thing as Mr. Sampson avers betwixt my Lord Chancellor and him, but I can safely swear I never heard it or of it before, nor did I ever hear the Duke mentioned in all the examinations concerning my Lord Tyrone. I am sure if I had, it had been set down for all the respect I owe His R. H. I knew very well how many there were that envied the place I held that did not like my principles or love my person, and therefore I have carried myself with all the caution I could devise and especially in the matter of the Plot, from the time it was discovered in England and inquired into here. It was my interest as well as my duty to find it out, and if notwithstanding all my pains and industry I cannot make it so plain as I desired and others expected, it will be hard to blame me for it, my life being threatened and all my fortune concerned in the subsistence of the Government and peace of the kingdom under the laws in force. These for the present are only topics for discourse upon occasion, till particulars are brought in question. I long to know what can be said in the eclaireissement. Your mother and son are at Chappell Izard, the boy has a cold. Vernon's affair need not bring him over this term. The enclosed to the Queen is to let Her Majesty know what kind of man my Lord of Fingall is and how unreasonable his calumnies against his wife are. From the first three years of her marriage her father and friends were for a separation, but she always refused their advice, a circumstance I did not mention in my letter, but may be added by you, but before you deliver the letter you are to be directed by my niece Fingall.

COLONEL EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, November 6. London.—I understand (for I have never been able to stir out of doors since I came hither) that my Lord Arran is arrived, if so had your Grace no other correspondent you would be sure to know more from both Court and Parliament than I can write from my confinement to my chamber. So that to spare your Grace's unprofitable pains (not my own, who really glory in any opportunity that may lay me at your Grace's feet) I shall desist giving your Grace any further trouble till either some account of importance occurs to me to provoke me or your Grace's commands enlarge me. If your Grace can invent any sort of service to employ me in as far as my small stock of strength will extend, all pains and care will be delightful to me that may convince your Grace, etc.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, November 6. London.—My Lord Arran has writ your Grace so full an account of his discourse with 418 by Sir Robert Hamilton, and he has also by the enclosed so exactly stated the proceedings in the House of Lords upon

our Irish Plot, that he has left very little for me to add upon either subject. The truth of it is he has in this little time of his being here so bestirred himself, and is believed by all so well to understand the affairs of Ireland, and so able to justify your Grace in your conduct there, that your enemies have been necessitated by their apprehension of it to take new measures and change the method they had designed to run you down by. For since he took his place in the House of Lords there has not been one public flirt at your Grace, whereas before it was every day's entertainment. And now that nothing appears (after all the strict scrutiny has been made) material against you, the matter of the whole examinations of our Irish discovery is at a free conference to be imparted on Monday to the House of Commons, and notwithstanding all this time has been spent in examinations, not one paper of those sent by your Grace and the Council has been perused by the committee, though they were by order of the King and Council lodged with their Lordships, I think, ever since the second day after the Parliament met. And lest the same method may be observed by the Committee of the House of Commons to whom of course this matter may be referred, by my Lord Arran's directions I have now copies writing out of all those papers which are necessary for your Grace's justification, which shall be dispersed amongst your Grace's friends in the House of Commons to be made use of as occasion serves. I have this day advanced so far towards my journey for Ireland as to send away all my things but my clothes upon my back. But it will be Thursday before I shall leave this place, because my Lady Donegal has for some reasons, which I shall acquaint your Grace when I have the honour to kiss your hands, desired me to stay till then, and if she proves as kind as I hope she will it will be worth my staying a few days. And besides I shall have the satisfaction of knowing in a great measure how our Irish matters will affect the House of Commons. David Fitzgerald, I doubt, has occasioned a new trouble to Col. Fitzpatrick, having informed the House of Lords that he was told at Limerick, when the Plot was in agitation there, there was a meeting in Dublin in order to it by Col. Talbot, Col. Fitzpatrick, Sir Edward Scott, Col. Dempsey, Peter Talbot and Plunkett. But he added that he did not say this of his own knowledge and could tell it only by hearsay. Plunkett has deceived all men living, for he told his tale with modesty and confidence enough and without any manner of hesitation or consternation, and when he was asked in the presence of Mr. Murphy whether he had not told him that your Grace had given him money, he denied it positively, and said he was so far from receiving money or any kindness from your Grace that he had received far less kindness and civility from your Grace than from the two precedent Governors, my Lord Berkeley and my Lord of Essex, who had both given him money and been very kind and civil to him, and

it was very unlikely he should tell Murphy your Grace had given him money if it had been so, because he knew him to be his professed enemy for depriving him of his parish, in which he lived scandalously and corresponded with the Tories. In fine he told his story with such plainness and simplicity that he left an impression with the Lords to his advantage. When Murphy told their Lordships that my Lord Lieutenant (meaning your Grace) had concealed the discovery of the plot Ronan Magin had made to your Grace from all but the King, by whose order your Grace sent him into France, where he since died, and consequently prevented his discovery; the King told some Lords who were near him he did believe your Grace would be in no plot but with him. Murphy, Burke, Sampson, and Macnamara have all laid load upon Sir Jo. Davys for browbeating and discountenancing them in their examinations. But the last has clawed of my Lord Privy Seal for writing two letters to my Lord Tyrone (which he saw), from the Duke, encouraging him to go on vigorously with the matter in hand, and he added that my Lord Anglesey had so great credit amongst the Papists that they prayed for him at Mass, and he heard his parish priest often pray for him. There is also some reflection upon my Lord Chief Justice Keating, Sir Richard Reynell, and Sir William Davys, but whether it will be so far improved against them as that they will be sent for I, who am now without doors, cannot tell. In my last I told your Grace what Sampson has said against my Lord Chancellor, but in one circumstance was misinformed, for the discourse which Sampson affirms upon his oath to have had with him concerning the Duke it seems was not in your Grace's closet. By the votes or journals which Mr. Mulys sends your Grace you will be informed how far the House of Commons have proceeded in the Bill against the Duke, and how likely Presbytery is to come in play again. This day Col. Legge told me that he shall soon surrender his government of Portsmouth to the Duke of Albemarle.

ORMOND to the EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, November 7. Dublin Castle.—I have received the directions of the Lords of the Committee of the 27th October for the sending over the Earl of Tyrone and Plunkett, the pretended titular Primate of Ireland. The latter I find by letters of the 30th October was arrived there, and the Earl of Tyrone shall be sent as required as soon as the papers commanded at the same time to be transmitted shall be copied, tho' I believe there is nothing concerning the accusation against his Lordship and the proceedings thereupon but has been sent either to Mr. Coventry whilst he was Secretary of State or to your Lordship since, and it appears by your several letters to me not only that they were received by you, but that they were communicated to the Lords of the Council; nor hath

this method been observed in that case alone, but whatever else hath come to my knowledge by way of discovery ever since we had first notice of the Popish Plot, hath constantly been made known by me to the Privy Council here, and from thence sent to your Lordship or to Mr. Coventry, wherein we have not omitted to transmit the slightest informations given to us, because that, tho' they might appear to us frivolous and insignificant, yet we did not know how far they might give light to or receive strength from what was informed in England. So that whatever may in any degree concern the Plot and came to our knowledge I suppose is to be found among your Lordship's or Mr. Coventry's papers, and possibly in the office of the clerks of the Council, which I do not mention to save pains here (for we are upon collecting and putting together a methodical deduction of all that hath come to our knowledge and been done by us in relation to the Plot), but that in case there should be present use of any of those examinations or other papers sent from us it may be known where they may be found. The very last information given us, which took rise from one David Nash, hath been sent your Lordship with all that has or could yet be done by us upon it. How far further we may thereupon be led to more discoveries I cannot tell, till one called D. Leryne shall be brought hither or further examined in the country, if he be no ways able to travel as he pretends.

ORMOND to COL. JOHN FITZPATRICK.

1680, November 7. Dublin.—This is the first letter I have gone about to write to you since we parted, nor have I had any from you but one in behalf of Groninx, the Dutchman, who is now planted at Carrick, and has set up his looms, but is fallen into some trouble by attempting to transport wool under the notion of Caddowes, upon which nicety there will be a dispute betwixt the Farmers and him. The question will be whether raw or manufactured. I have long wished you of our Church and as long wondered you were not, being master of so much reason; but my business is not to flatter you or reproach all others that remain in the other communion. If you were a good witness in my concerns you could acquit me of being a Papist or Popishly affected, if there were any certain mark set upon Popishly affected, that is that I was not so when you left me, and since there has no great temptation appeared to change me. The account you have given of my coming into the Government is truer than in one particular I wish it were, for if my Lord of Danby would have permitted me to serve my master, as many would have appeared for the King as for my Lord Treasurer, which was not always the distribution. I am extremely prepared to improve the friendship you say I may have with my Lord Sunderland, wherein you cannot oblige me more than to be as instrumental as you can.

ORMOND to COL. EDWARD COOKE.

1680, November 7. Dublin.—I have received four or five of your letters and have made no return to them, which I confess to be a fault, and such as would discourage a less affectionate correspondent. To the letter that seemed to dismiss your first overture I have nothing to say but that I was in the disposition I told you to entertain it, and shall still have respect to the family. I have since been put upon another proposition of the like nature, but till we shall be further entered into it I forbear to explain myself. Then you are like to be of my council. Your last but that of the 2nd of this month gave me much apprehension of indisposition, neither your style or character being such as was usual; I hope you will gather strength every day, but rather than you should not, I would be content to lose the satisfaction of your letters for a time. I am told of twenty crimes at least I am to be charged with, and that Sir Henry Ingoldsby is to make good many of them. I know not how pertinently he may swear, but I never heard him say anything to the purpose in my life. Your kinsman Gustavus is a very diligent good young man, and if I may have a little time and opportunity I mean to let him see I have that opinion of him. I wish you good health with all my heart. If you stay in town I am sure my son Arran will be glad to compare notes with you. I pray let me know what you have heard of my grandson's being engaged to a wench in the way of marriage at Oxford. The report has been raised without the least colour, by whom or for what end I cannot imagine.

ORMOND to the EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, November 7. Dublin.—The packet bringing letters of the 2nd instant is just now come, but in it I find no letter from you; perhaps you had nothing to say but what you knew I should have from other hands. My Lord Longford regrets much the want of a narrative, as apprehending that Sir H. Ingoldsby's informations will be swallowed without examination; for my part I know not what he can say, if nobody help his invention, that can reflect on anybody here. However, I hope this packet may carry an account of the most material things that have been informed of and proceeded upon in relation to the Plot, namely, all that concerns my Lord of Tyrone and the titular Primate, and their trials will, I suppose, be first gone upon, they being sent for. What remains shall soon follow. I send you the copy of my letter to my Lord Sunderland which I thought needful you should have by you. I have no more time or matter.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, November 9. London.—I had this afternoon yours of the 30th of the last and one of the 1st instant. I have

nothing more to say concerning the Plot, the business being now before the Commons, but I was informed that Sir Henry Ingoldsby desired to put in articles against you, but Sir Richard Stephens informs me to the contrary. With much ado I got the Lords to give all the papers relating to Ireland to the Commons yesterday at a conference, and those sent over by Sir John Davys, and tho' I could not get our House to read them your friends have promised to get them all read. At the House of Commons yesterday at the committee I gave an account of David Nash and Stokes and told my Lord Shaftesbury, who was in the chair, how they had disowned their deposition. He said he did not wonder at it when the Chancellor and Sir John Davys took the examinations. I answered that my Lord Chancellor was not there, but said that all the depositions taken in relation to the Plot were as impartially taken as ever his lordship took any, to which he made no reply, neither has he ventured to have a fling at you since my being in the House, and I thank God I have overcome the awe of speaking there. Others, I hope, will do me right in informing your Grace whether I have done my endeavours to serve you as I ought in this conjuncture.

As to the business of the bailiwick of Westminster, I am afraid you will scarce prove a title to it, and the King is resolved to turn out Stroud; and he is resolved to complain to the House, and though I have no authority from you, yet I am so much more concerned for your honour than your profit that I shall venture to make a composition to the satisfaction of all parties, and get you some money too, though not so much as you had bargained for, and this my Lord Chamberlain approves of. The man is to come to me to-morrow about it, and by the next you shall have a full account of my proceeding in it, which, I hope, you will justify me in.

I was commanded to attend His Majesty at the Council this afternoon with a list of the officers of the army, which I gave in, but no alteration was made. I have it in command to inform your Grace what alterations and reducements are resolved upon, and will be sent you next post, and I must be bold to say that I saved my Lord Chancellor's 1,000*l.* pension by what I said on his behalf, and therefore I hope he will not believe the reports here that to save you I would forsake him. The reducements are half the pensions, three of the Commissioners of Appeals (I would have saved George Wild, but it would not be granted.) The creation money, the 5,000*l.* you had, Sir Robert Hamilton's 200*l.* per annum. The King allows 8,000*l.* of the Windsor money, and I can remember no more. I moved the King that some powder should be sent over, which His Majesty has promised to give order in. The remaining part of the Scotch Regiment when recruited are to be sent to Tangier, and those of our army are to return. When they arrive there you are with what

speed you can to find out the best way to have men from hence to supply the place of those that are defective, and such orders will be sent you as you shall desire. I found everybody at the Board very friendly to you. The reductions I mentioned are to be but for a year.

When I came to look into my wife's accounts I found she had spent in four months 1,200*l.*, which is no small inconvenience to me; but she is so very sensible of her fault in it that I have not been so severe as perhaps another would have been in my place.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, November 9. London.—My Lord Arran gives your Grace so exact an account of his own endeavours and the success he has in your Grace's service, that he leaves nothing for me to write, and really he is so dexterous in everything he undertakes here that all the rest of your Grace's servants are become useless to you, for he leaves nothing for us to do. The Irish Plot is now before the Commissioners, where your Grace's friends are both instructed and resolved to defend you if any attack be made upon your Grace there. The journal of both Houses which Mr. Mulys sends your Grace will inform your Grace of the proceedings better than any man who is without doors can do. This afternoon the Committee, to whom the examination of the complaint against Sir George Jefferyes was referred, has voted that by his discountenancing of the petitions for the meeting of the Parliament he has betrayed the rights and privileges of the people of England, which, when it's reported to the House, your Grace may easily judge what will be his doom. I intend this shall be the last letter I shall write to your Grace from hence, resolving to leave this place this week. The Duke's reception in Scotland has been very great and splendid, and much beyond what it was formerly.

EARL OF CONWAY to ORMOND.

1680, November 9. London.—I have had the honour to receive your Grace's letter of the 1st inst., and I have constantly attended at the Committee of Examinations especially about the Irish affairs, but nothing hath occurred that can any way reflect upon your Grace. My Lord Anglesey is charged home by Sampson and Macnamara for two letters written to my Lord of Tyrone, and had the confidence yesterday to deliver them at a conference to the House of Commons with this raillery, that they would find his name mentioned in them, to which they replied that if they did they would not abate him an ace. The House of Commons hath had a new evidence before them this morning, one Turberville, as I take it, who hath convinced many; and my cousin Seymour, who hath always believed as little of the Plot as any man, told

me that this man had removed all his scruples and objections : he affirms positively that my Lord Powis and my Lord Stafford would have engaged him to kill the King.

The Bill against the Duke is not yet past the House of Commons, and 'tis certain it will not pass the House of Lords ; for by the largest computation they are but thirty of the temporals which will be for it, and my Lord of Sunderland and my Lord of Essex must be reckoned into the number to make them so many, and we shall be fifty now sitting against it, besides the bishops.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, November 13. Dublin.—Since my last to your Grace I am informed that the Irish witnesses have been all heard before the House of Commons, and that Mr. Hetherington, being asked what he had to say, could inform nothing of the Plot, but did inform them of the miscarriages of the Government, and that was what Sir Henry Ingoldsby discoursed in the coffee houses. I need not endeavour to take copies of what they all have informed, for they have leave from the House to print their informations ; all that I can guess at concerning you is that it will be pressed hard that an address should be made to His Majesty for your removal, and I cannot assure you but that they may compass it ; as for any impeachment I am morally assured it is not intended. I have reason to believe that 932 is willing you should be removed, for he yesterday advised your throwing up ; but matters are not gone so far yet, there being nothing yet resolved upon, and I hope before they come to the debate of the matter your narrative will come over. The main thing that sticks is the proclamation about disarming the Papists.

My Lord Clarendon desired me very earnestly to write to you about Dick Bealing, who he says has 700*l.* due to him from Mr. Warren upon the account of rent, and can get no remedy, tho' he has judgment against him by reason of his being sheriff last year, and he hears it to be so this. He desires you would not be prevailed with to do it ; I think I spoke on his behalf, but knew nothing of this. Since there are to be three Commissioners of Appeals left, and it is likely the naming all but Sir Charles Meredith will be left to you, I think myself bound to put you in mind of

Mr. Gwyn, who is very much your friend here. ^{Burlington is} 920 379

^a ^{knave} ^{to} ^{you} ^{and} ⁱ ^{suspect} ^I ^{is} ^L ^{to}
76 425 725 45 60 42 84 50 275 431 160 41 74 418.
I hear Sir Robert Southwell is come over, but I have not yet seen him.* I leave Sir James Butler to give you an account of Stroud, who has not been with me since I writ concerning this matter, but he is such a knave that we must be very wary how to deal with him, especially since I am satisfied the taking money for that employment cannot be justified.

* The equivalents of this cipher are in Ormond's hand, but scarcely legible.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, November 13. Whitehall.—I did not write to your Grace last post to give you an account of some matters the King had that day resolved upon concerning Ireland, because my Lord of Arran charged himself with doing it. The enclosed order will now particularly inform you of some part of the King's mind. His Majesty intends to send you some further directions relating to the army, which you may expect by the next post. I have your Grace's and the Council's letter of the 30th past, with several informations which are, by the King's order, sent to the House of Lords.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, November 13. London.—A cause upon which I was on Thursday last to have had a hearing in the Exchequer, being at the Barons' request to me then in Court put off till Monday next, I am by that means necessitated to break my word with your Grace in giving you the trouble of another letter from hence, for while I am here I esteem myself obliged to give your Grace an account of what occurs to me.

The Bill against the Duke passed in the House of Commons on Thursday last, but it is not yet carried up to the Lords, where it is believed it will never pass as it is now penned. Yeste day the Lord Mayor called a Common Council, where they agreed upon an address to His Majesty, which my Lord Mayor presented last night. The purport of it was to thank His Majesty for the meeting of the Parliament and by it His Majesty's care of the Protestant religion, and it ended in a request to His Majesty that he would be advised by his Parliament. His Majesty returned his thanks to them for their care of the Protestant religion, which he assured them he would support, and needed not to be put in mind of it by petitions and addresses (or words to this purpose). He told them they meddled in things that did not belong to them, and wished them to have a care of some incendiaries amongst them who were disaffected to the Government and endeavoured to make divisions between him and his people. This, I am told, was the substance of what His Majesty said, for I was not then in Court. The Bill for prohibition of the Irish cattle, butter, cheese, hides and tallow passed the Commons on Thursday and this day passed the Lords. On Thursday Hethrington was before the Commons, and though he did not own himself to be a discoverer of the Plot, of which he understood nothing but from others, yet he took upon him to discourse largely of the state of Ireland, and fell very foul upon your Grace, saying you were the centre of all the conspirators (as a very worthy member of the House told me). Mr. Murphy followed him, and repeated the same discourse he made before the Lords and mentioned your Grace as he had done formerly. But Mr. Fitzgerald has given a very good account of your Grace and the Government there in the story

he told. And except him the former persons, Mr. Sampson, Burke, and Macnamara have all laid load upon Sir Jo. Davys and the three last upon Sir William Davys and Sir Richard Reynell. My Lord Chancellor has had the good luck not to be named by any of them before the Commons. They are all ordered to print their narratives and to choose their printers. The House of Commons have not yet had any debate upon the Irish Plot, but it is thought that within a few days hence they will take Ireland into their consideration. This day the House of Commons with their Speaker attended His Majesty with their address in answer to the message sent them the other day by Sir Lyollin Jenkins, which His Majesty received, and, rising up from his chair, put it up into his pocket and walked away to the park without saying one word to them. This day the Commons have voted an address to His Majesty for the turning Sir George Jefferyes out of his place of Chief Justice of Chester. On Thursday one Turbivill confessed before the House of Commons that my Lord Stafford had offered him money to kill the King; and this day one Lewis accused my Lord Arundel of having offered him money the day before he was committed to kill the King. The Commons yesterday by a message desired the Lords to appoint a day for the trial of my Lord Stafford, and I think their Lordships have appointed Tuesday come fortnight for it.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, November 16. London.—Yesterday was a great day of a debate in the House of Lords concerning the Bill of excluding the Duke. The House sat till ten o'clock at night, and about that time came to the question and carried that the Bill should be rejected. For the reading the Bill the second time there were thirty, for the throwing it out sixty-five, of which number there were fourteen bishops, which was all that were on that Bench. The thirty Lords that were for the Bill this morning entered their protestation, amongst which number was the Earl of Sunderland, Lord Privy Seal, Lord Newport, Lord Manchester, Lord Dorset, Earl of Essex and Lord Suffolk. The Earl of Halifax opposed it with great vigour. The House of Commons this day met and adjourned till to-morrow morning without doing anything. The House of Lords were this day upon finding out expedients to prevent or restrain a Popish successor. Several propositions were made: one for an Act of Association like that in Queen Elizabeth's time; another for limitations to a Popish successor, thereby making him incapable of doing prejudice either to religion or property; another for making void the King's marriage with the Queen, and banishing the Duke of York for the King's life; all which proposals were adjourned till to-morrow.

On Sunday in the evening Prince Philip of Savoy, younger brother to the Count Soissons, and Monsieur Sissack fell out at play in the Duchess of Modarine's [? Mazarine's] lodgings,

and Prince Philip in the room wounded Sissack in several places, particularly through the side of his belly, of which he now lies ill without hopes of recovery. The Duchess of Southampton died this morning of the smallpox.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, November 16. London.—I shall trouble your Grace with little this post. The journals of Parliament do contain all that is worth your knowledge. The names of the Lords who were for the Bill of Exclusion I have given my Lord Longford, who is now by me, and will more at large entertain you. I am often alarmed with an impeachment to be brought in against you, but can find no certainty of the matter yet, but I am very confident that you will be attacked; for since the Bill against the Duke was thrown out, all those who are looked upon as friends to him will be struck at, and of that number you are reckoned. I think it therefore worth your considering whether you should not ask the King's leave to come over if you are accused, with power to leave such as he shall approve of until you return either by way of Deputy or Justices. In this I have consulted my Lord Chamberlain.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, November 16. Dublin.—I have for a post or two forbore to write to anybody in England for want of matter to write of, there being at this time three packets at Holyhead in which very important advertisements are reasonably to be expected, the opening of the first session of this Parliament having produced votes that prognosticate high determinations. God send they prove prosperous to the public whoever in particular may suffer by them. Our narrative is at last brought to a conclusion, all to the writing, but the labour of that is great: yet it was necessary to justify all that is affirmed by authentic pieces adjoined. Whether all our pains may not come too late I cannot tell, but sooner it could not be done. Mr. Fitzgerald and Sir Oliver St. George were now of opinion that none should be sent, tho' their own hands were to a former narrative of what had till then passed on the same subject, but why or by what arguments they are prevailed upon to change their opinion did not appear to me.

I hear that one Samuel Rolls (a rich man, they say) is brought into trouble for so cruelly beating a maid servant of his that she died in a short time after. Whether he be really guilty of the fact or others of wrongfully accusing him is like to be determined by law: in the meantime it may not be fit His Majesty should be surprised upon any application for his pardon.

Postscript.—November 18.—Last night I received yours of the 2nd by Sir Robert Hamilton and those of the 6th and 9th by the post. Sir John Davys gives you an account himself of

his preparation for his voyage. I think he will go hence with good attestations from the Council. Of what force they will be, I know not. The several orders you mention when they come shall be put in execution with all the expedition they are capable of. I have not time to say more now.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, November 16. London.—Though I confess I have not any business now in this place, yet matters being now brought near a crisis, I cannot for my life quit for two or three days till I see how affairs will go. Yesterday the Bill for excluding the Duke from the succession was carried up by my Lord Russell to the Lords, who being then in a debate upon my Lord Peterborough, against whom Dangerfield had given evidence (as he had some time before to the Commons) and upon that evidence motions were made for his being committed to the Black Rod, after the Bill was received by their Lordships the debate was again resumed. My Lord Peterborough made an handsome defence for himself, and in the close of discourse said he hoped their Lordships would not in the case of a peer receive the testimony of Dangerfield, who appeared so notoriously scandalous a person upon record that the Judges of Westminster Hall would not admit his evidence even against Mrs. Cellier, and then he withdrew. The debate upon the question of his commitment lasted two hours, by which time those who were for his commitment perceiving they could not carry it, and consequently might hazard the baffling of Dangerfield's evidence, chose to let fall the debate, and, my Lord Peterborough, was called in again to his place. After this the Bill against the Duke was immediately read, and the debate upon it lasting seven hours in a grand committee, the chief part of the debate and argument was between my Lord Shaftesbury and my Lord Halifax, and in conclusion the question being put at eleven at night the Bill was rejected, upon the division there being only thirty Lords for the Bill who are now Protestors, and whose names I now send your Grace enclosed. The Commons being surprised at this miscarriage of their Bill, as soon as the Speaker took the chair this morning, they immediately adjourned till to-morrow morning.

The Lords this morning fell upon expedients to secure the Protestant religion and supply the place of the Bill which was rejected. My Lord Halifax proposed the banishing of the Duke for five years out of the King's presence, and from his person in case the King lived so long. My Lord Shaftesbury proposed a divorce of the Queen for a reason, and instanced in the old story of the French Ambassador concerning the treaty of a marriage between the French King and her which did not succeed, because she was said to be incapable of bearing children. But I do not find that either of those propositions have yet taken place. But a third proposition

for an association of Lords and Commons for the security of the King's life, etc., is entertained, as your Grace will find by the proceedings in the Lords' House, which Mr. Mulys sends your Grace, to which I refer.

Moyer, Callaghan and Henan are come to town and are in Mr. Hethrington's conduct, and, I hear, do intend to reflect upon your Grace for not using them well, but discouraging them when they were sent for hither to give their testimony, and treating them worse when they were sent back.

THOMAS OTWAY, BISHOP OF OSSORY, to ORMOND.

1680, November 17.—I thought it my duty to acquaint your Grace that one Paul Higgin, a priest of the Romish Church, and lately a vicar general in the diocese of Killala, is now with me and hath left that Church and come to ours. I have known him ever since I was in Connaught and have discoursed and disputed with him. He is of an unquestionable conversation and of much more learning than generally their priests are, though I believe not of more than a man may well bear. He is very poor, and if your Grace should think fit to allow him some pension till something might be gotten for him, it might encourage others to come in. I hear, but am not certain of it, that there is a salary in the college for one that can translate into Irish practical books of divinity, Latin or English, adequated to the understanding of the poorer Irish. He would be very fit for that, having a competent knowledge of those three languages and writing a better Irish character than I have else seen.

If your Grace's leisure will permit to read a little further, I shall give your Grace a short account of our past and present scuffles here. No Jews or Turks could have used me worse than the Mayor and Corporation of Kilkenny. They have not carried themselves in it like tolerable heathens, and I might with greater reason think that Socrates and Cato go to heaven than an alderman of Kilkenny. But besides the justice of my cause, which hath been upheld for more than 200 years against them, as I can make good by papers in my own hands, I have this comfort, that I have excellent company, this sort of cattle using their horns against the nobility as well as the clergy. As soon as this affair is over they will as certainly return to their old animosities, as the cold and hot fits of an ague succeed each other. I most humbly beg your Grace's pardon for this. God Almighty preserve your Grace.

EXAMINATION OF JOHN BANKS RELATING TO PAPERS FOUND ON PATRICK FLEMING.

The examination of John Banks, gent., who being sworn and examined saith that he is a horseman in Sir Wm. Tichborn's troop and several years quartered at Ardee, saith that he was on that party that killed Patrick Fleming about

the 14th of February, 1677, near Eniskeen, in the county of Monaghan, being commanded by Quartermaster Thomas Parke, quartermaster of the said troop, where the said Fleming with seven men more of his associates in rebellion were cut off by the said party after the exchange of several shots and hurt done on both sides; that he was present when one John Green, of the said troop, took out of the pocket of the said Fleming, after he was killed, several papers, among which was a letter signed Thomas Cox and superscribed for Mr. Manus O'Quin, bearing date the 31st of January, 1677, which original letter was delivered to the examinant's father, then one of the portreeves of Ardee, by the said Green, and was given by this examinant to Mr. Serjeant Osborne about three weeks after, a copy whereof about eight days since he, this examinant, inclosed in a letter to the said Serjeant Osborne, who had formerly desired the examinant to make search for the same; and further saith that this examinant took an exact copy with his own hand of the said letter, which he last sent as aforesaid to Serjeant Osborne, and the paper now showed unto him is the said copy so by him taken and written with his own hand, which he verily believeth to be an exact copy of the original letter before mentioned, he being present when his father took the first copy thereof and perused and subscribed the same as a true copy; and saith there was among the aforementioned papers taken one that had the shape of a foot, and called the print of our Lady's foot, with this further observation, that whoever had the same about him and should say certain Pater Noster and Ave Mar' should that day be set free, or to that effect; being asked why he so long detained the said letter as three weeks without bringing it to a magistrate, he saith that it was not thought so material until it was by his said father remembered that the titular Primate Oliver Plunkett went by the name of Cox, which was seconded by several of the country, whose names he remembers not. And further saith not.

Jo. Banks.

Taken and sworn before us the 17th of November, 1680.
Hen. Midensis. Ca. Dillon.

**EXAMINATION OF SIR WM. TICHBORN RELATING TO PAPERS
FOUND ON PATRICK FLEMING.**

1680, November 18.—Who being duly sworn and examined saith that when a party of his men about the 14th of February, 1677, had killed Patrick Fleming, a Tory, there were several papers brought unto him by John Greene, one of this examinant's troopers, which, he said, were taken out of the pockets of the said Fleming, and were only loose and inconsiderable notes, one of which said to have the shape of our Lady's foot, and a few days after Mr. Samuel Banks, one of the portreeves of Atherdee, showed this examinant a certain

letter which the said Banks told him was taken out of the pocket of the said Fleming, which letter this examinant saw delivered to Mr. Serjeant Osborne, and verily believeth that the copy now sworn to and subscribed by John Banks is a true copy thereof, for that he, this examinant, read the said original, and further saith that the general vogue of the country was that Oliver Plunkett, titular Primate, sometimes assumed the name of Thomas Cox, which was the reason that the aforesaid letter subscribed by the said Thomas Cox was sent to Serjeant Osborne as aforesaid, and further saith not.

Will. Tichborn.

Taken the day aforesaid before us
Hen. Midensis. Ca. Dillon.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Nov. 19. Dublin.—I think mine of yesterday and of a former date will be overtaken by this, and own the receiving last night of yours of the 13th. The throwing up advised by 932 would conveniently save him the trouble of appearing against an address or the reproach of not doing it. Perhaps he supposes it may prevent an impeachment, having found that one way or another my remove will be attempted. All I can say at present in justification of the proclamation for disarming the Papists is contained in the paper inclosed, saving that it was with the full approbation and advice of a numerous Council at that time assembled. I do not find that by the order of Council it leaves it to me to determine which of the Commissioners of Inspection shall be continued, and I wish it may be done in England. Of six there are but three to continue, and I think the competition must fall betwixt Sir Robert Hamilton, Mr. Gwyn and Mr. Wild. For the present I believe I shall leave Sir Charles Meredith and Sir John Topham in the execution of the trust, suspend four of the six, and stay for His Majesty's declaration who shall be the third. Sir Robert Hamilton was a supernumerary introduced more to gratify him than for the necessity of the service. Mr. Gwyn was one of the first, but never attended the service. Mr. Wild has been often and of late constantly here. The sixth is, I think, Wm. Ellis, and is not to receive any salary till a vacancy. If it prove so 900*l.* a year cannot be saved upon that article unless all the other three be suspended.

I could not imagine but that your brother's body had been buried with the rites of the Church. It is fit it should be done in the manner you propose. I know nothing of the Gent. of the Horse, but they say he was never with my son upon any expedition, and served him but a little while. However, I shall not interpose in the matter. I am loth to give Fitzpatrick's plan away only on a report that he has another. I had forgot Sir John Hanmer was to be one of

the four to be for the present suspended and then let them make their application. I have heard nothing from Sir James Butler concerning Strode or his place. I think it will be best to let that matter rest till a fitter time.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 20. London.—I had on Wednesday last your Grace's letters of the 6th and 7th instant, and am much concerned that you could not understand what I writ in cipher in mine of the 30th of the last month, for I took all the care I could not to commit any mistake, therefore I conclude the cipher is not well copied. You may judge by the little I now write 267 379 734 34 71 59. I confess I cannot so well answer for myself in another particular which is the not keeping copies of my letters, but I shall take the pains to do it hereafter, for I find my letter of the 2nd was not come to your hands, tho' one of the same date from my Lord Longford was, and tho' I remember it was a long one, yet for want of a copy I cannot remember the contents, but because I was informed letters were often opened, I sent mine with my Lord Longford's. I think it worth while to enquire into the matter, for I am confident my letter was not intercepted in this place. I have been and am still ready to make the best use I can of those heads or topics you mention with some others when occasion offers, but your enemies were aware of that and therefore would not bring any accusation before our House. The narrative my Lord Chief Justice sent soon after me will in my judgment serve the turn whenever it will be thought fit to read it better than that Mr. Gascoigne has sent me this post by your order, because it mentions so many enclosed papers which are not to be found, and if they were, a buttrees of that length will scarce be perused as the world now goes. My Lord Chamberlain has it now to read and his advice I will take in the matter. I have reason to believe that most of the papers transmitted by the Government were sent by the principal Secretary of State to the Parliament with his perusing them, and by what I can learn his Lordship has not yet acquainted His Majesty or the Board with your letter to him of the 7th. You will find by the journals of our House that Tuesday next is appointed to enquire how those in employment stand affected, and then it is likely you may be brought upon the stage as a friend to the Duke. My Lady Fingall desiring to deliver the letter you sent me, I gave it to her, and the first opportunity I will say what you command.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 20. London.—With great joy I resume my pen, being empowered so to do by your Grace's commission under your own hand of the 7th inst., which coming not to mine till Wednesday night I could not till this post reduce

this my duty into practice. I shall begin with the consideration of your Grace's letter that no important particular may escape unanswered. And in the first place, now I am convinced that your Grace accepts of my service and that my letters get safe to your hands, it is enough to oblige my constant writing without your Grace's undergoing any further trouble, not to answer only to read what I write, unless your Grace shall have any commands to honour me with. As for that unequal overture I once hastily made, I do confess the partial opinion I had for my niece and then the danger her brother was in (since perfectly recovered) betrayed me into that well-meant misguided presumption; I suspect some of her friends are about to betray her into no great happiness by laying out their interest to promote Tom. Thinne's addresses, against which I have with great positiveness bore my testimony, as I had done before (and with better success) against the Hamilton Lord Aran when he fancied himself sure of her. I most heartily wish that young Lord who promises so fair to tread in the upright steps of both grandfather and father amongst all other happiness that of the best wife these dominions will afford, which tempted my pen in one of my letters to mention the new widow Ogle, but wherever your Grace shall think fit to lay that scene and think me worthy of having a part, I shall act with the greatest vigour imaginable, as thinking it the greatest honour imaginable to be owned by your Grace and commanded on so important a service. I cannot deny but I was once alarmed that his little lordship had been too prodigal in disposing his person to the cook or butler's daughter of the college he was of, and that one Spencer was the reporter. I sought diligently, but could never find out this Spencer, nor any provocation for the report, tho' both Sir John Doyly and myself were curiously nice in our scrutiny into the matter. But when we found there was not the least shadow of truth in the thing (for the Bishop himself escaped not our inquiry) I thought it impertinent to trouble your Grace with a false alarm, rather choosing to act my diligence in stopping their mouths who I found opened to repeat it. As for your Grace's numerous guilts I have not yet met with Sir Hen. Ingoldsby, and so do not know his romances, but all others were collected by sham infences from some Irish examinations at the Lords' Bar by such, not who believed them so, but would have had them so whose keen edges are at present blunted. As for my own health I dare not be too bold in boasting of it yet, having had my former hopes so often frustrated by unexpected and unaccountable relapses which have confined me within the walls of my chamber ever since I came into it (which happening, by my Lord Norreys' favour who hath taken the whole house and allows me a room in it, to be in the old palace yard at one Captain Beale's house, the members of both houses are so charitable to me as to divert me with the accounts of the

daily proceedings in both. I must gratefully acknowledge the matter is much mended with me (especially within these two past days) since the time that for three fits together I could neither understand another or express myself, only my compassionate visitors could since tell me my tongue ran apace, often mentioning your Grace, but without any coherence, and very probably the weakness of my head and hand betrayed in one of my letters was the effect of one of those three fits, being eager too soon to pay my duty to your Grace. It is no small comfort to me to read my poor child Gustavus so well thought on by your Grace. I am better pleased that he retains your Grace's favour than if he should obtain preferment. Emboldened by your Grace's mentioning my Lord Arran, I have sent my humble suit to his Lordship that at his best leisure either coming to or going from the House he would do me the honour to call on me, that by his conduct I may be managed in your Grace's service, than which nothing can be more delightful to me. I am commanded by my worthy landlord, my Lord Norreys, to assure your Grace he is your admirer and humble servant.

How furiously this week began I presume is now no news. That my Lord Russell, attended with a crowd of members, handed up the Bill against the D. Y. from the Commons House to the Lords, where it is thought it had longer slept had it not been wakened by an assurance derived from the Duchess of P[ortsmouth], Secr. Sund[erland] and Mr. Godol[phin] that it would infallibly pass, fifty-five votes being secured and His Majesty contrived into a passive neutrality. It was no sooner landed in the Lords' House but it had the preference and laid by all other business. And immediately the debate began. The little great champion for it was my back friend; his duellist was my Lord Halifax, who (say some) did so outdo his usual parts (tho' constantly very great) that by the strength of his argument he cleared many eyes (purblied by prepossession), to vote against the Bill. *Three particulars I have heard repeated as wholly unprovided for by this Bill and yet unanswered.*

1. *The lopping off of the whole kingdom of Scotland, whose fatal consequences wanted not due illustration.* 2dly. *What if the Princess of Orange should refuse to assume her father's seat during his life (no very unreasonable conjecture), who then should be King?* 3. *Should the Princess accept, be crowned Queen and established in the throne, and after the Duke should have a son, what then?* Small circumstances unforeseen and consequently unprovided for; but it seems when the Q. at 9 at night past, 63 were convinced of the impropriety, nay impracticability of the Bill, and only 30 pertinaciously espoused it. Next morning the Commons met and in great formality by their Mace summoned in all their gowned members from the several Bars; but Sir Jo. Hotham moving that a longer time was necessary to recollect themselves from this amazing consternation, they immediately adjourned

till next morning. The Lords spent Tuesday on proposing expedients in lieu of the Bill as effectual and more practicable. Many were brought in then and more since, but Monday next is appointed for them to be debated. To say truth, as many are pertinent so very many are otherwise, rather invented to obstruct than proposed as proper materials for a Bill. I perceive the wisest gape after a prorogation, if but for two days, which will once again bring either the old Bill or a worse on the stage, it being expected that many who were then resolute would now face about. But I neither believe they would find one changeling as to the Bill nor that they will be gratified with such a prorogation, whence an inclination in the King might be too naturally inferred should he administer such an opportunity for its reinforcement. As for the Commons' proceedings since, the printed votes publish them: they hotly ordered two addresses, one in answer to the King's message about Tangier, the other for the removal of my Lord Halifax out of the King's presence and Council, but coolly pursue those votes, which, tho' passed on Wednesday, are not yet perfected; all the allegation against the Lord arises (they own) only from common fame that he advised for dissolutions and prorogations, etc. Nor have the Lords done much since Monday, as if they took time to recover breath again. Public expedients and private trials have spun out most of their morning light; only this morning my Lord Peterborough (who was accused by Mr. Dangerfield's last evidence and that entered) craved his defence might stand entered also. After a long debate it was submitted to the consideration of a Committee. Their Lordships have also referred it to a Committee to exempt Protestant dissenters from the penalties of the Acts calculated against Papists. In the Commons House this day the Bill to inhibit Scotch cattle was carried but by four votes. They have also committed Sir Robert Holt and Mr. Stapley (both gowned men and Justices of Berkshire) for the heinous sin, discouraging petitioners and being abhorers. They have also impeached Mr. Seymour (the quondam Speaker) of four articles, chiefly for embezzling and purloining the King's revenue, who hath till Thursday to put in his answer. He seems little startled at it. The foremen of several abhorring juries are sent for up in custody, some as far as Somersetshire and Devonshire. Where 'twill end, God knows.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 20. London.—Since my last to your Grace the House of Commons have voted an address to His Majesty for the removing my Lord Halifax for ever out of his presence and Council. But the address has not yet been presented to his Majesty, nor that against Sir George Jefferyes. This day there were articles of high misdeameanour given into the House by Sir Gilbert Gerard against Mr. Seymour, who is ordered a copy of them and has time till Thursday

next to make answer to them. Those who are his friends say he can make a very good defence for himself and doubt not of his coming off and justifying himself against the accusation.

The obstructors of the petition for the meeting of the Parliament are every day called to an account for their proceedings in that affair, but none yet have had the judgment of the House passed upon them, but Sir George Jefferyes and Sir Francis Wythens. I have reason to fear 579 446 64 725 566 86 27 552 582 59 240 551 736 681 206, our letters to Ormond are opened on that side for I am sure I have taken care to prevent it on this, ever since I have been here, therefore it is worth your Grace's care to look into it. I confess my wife's being now well has encouraged me to stay a few days longer here than I intended, in order to the serving your Grace and my friends there, and having done now all within my poor sphere towards it, I resolve on Wednesday next to set forwards for Ireland.

STATEMENT by Mr. SERGEANT JOHN OSBORNE.

1680, November 20.—When Patrick Fleming, the Tory, was killed, which, to the best of my remembrance, was in the beginning of Lent, 1677, I was in Dublin. Soon after I went to Stacallan, in the county of Meath. There I heard of a letter found in the pocket of the said Fleming at his death which did contain several things very observable, but I remember not at this present from whom I heard the same. I remember that after, but the time I cannot now call to mind, I had discourse with Sir Wm. Tichborne and told him it was fit my Lord Lieutenant should have this letter; that some time after, I being then very shortly to go to Dublin, the letter was brought me to Stacallan by one John Banks, a horseman of Sir Wm. Tichborne's troop, at which time I caused the said John to endorse his name upon it, that suddenly after I went to Dublin, that with the first opportunity after I came there I delivered the said letter to my Lord of Ormond, but neither the time when it was delivered to me nor that in which I gave it to my Lord of Ormond I can by no circumstances yet call to mind. When I gave it my Lord, he seemed to read it and said words to this effect, as I apprehended, that he thought it would have been to the advantage of the country if Fleming had gone out of it, but that there were assurances in that letter he had given no direction for. My Lord gave me back the letter, but before I went out of the room he demanded it again and I returned it, and saw him lay it in a window in his closet in the Castle of Dublin. I never affirmed anything concerning the above related passages materially different from what is here set down.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, November 23.—I am so well settled in my resolutions for Ireland that this day I waited upon His Majesty to kiss

his hand in order to it, and I am now so far advanced in it that I stay now only for a letter which His Majesty promised to write to your Grace, which I hope to receive to-morrow, and on Thursday to begin my journey.

This morning was the first day of the Duke of Buckingham's appearing in the House of Lords, when he moved that a committee of their Lordships might be appointed to meet with a committee of the House of Commons to consider of the expedients proposed and the state of the nation in relation to Popery, which, being debated for at least two hours, upon a division of the House it was carried in the negative, for which were 45, and only 32 for the affirmative. The House of Commons yesterday passed their address against the Earl of Halifax upon a division for the recommitment of it, 101 being for the affirmative and 213 for the negative, but it is not yet presented to His Majesty. I am told this severe proceeding does not abate his Lordship's mettle. This day the House of Commons [sat] where upon the consideration of those Judges who dismissed the Grand Juries were the 14 Lords [who] would have indicted the Duke for a Papist, and 'tis said they have voted them betrayers of the privileges of the people of England. For the rest I must refer your Grace to the journals which are sent your Grace by Mr. Mulys. My Lord Shaftesbury being disabled from attending the House by the gout, which is fallen into his shoulder, the consideration of the Queen's divorce, which was appointed for this day, is put off *sine die*. I suppose by this packet my Lord Chamberlain gives your Grace an account how obligingly His Majesty has this day interposed in the treaty for my Lord Ossory's marriage, and I have another obliging story to tell your Grace when I have the honour to kiss your hands. This day His Majesty had an account from Sir Hen. Goodericke, resident at Madrid, that three boats arriving at Malaga from Tangier brought news of a smart encounter between the English and the Moors, wherein the Moors lost 2,000 men killed upon the place, that we lost only 150, that we had taken nine colours, retaken six guns, got the possession of Monmouth fort, which was rebuilding, and that we had filled up all the Moors' trenches, and were then absolute masters of the field the night after the fight when those boats left Tangier; but there was fresh shooting heard the next morning. This happy victory was effected by the conduct of Col. Edward Sackville, who commanded in chief (Sir Palmes Fairborne having been killed by an accidental shot the day before), and the assistance of some Spanish horse who landed from Spain but a day or two before and behaved themselves with great gallantry in the engagement. But there is no advice of this come yet from Tangier. On Saturday His Majesty had advice that the 1,200 men sent to Tangier under the command of Col. Percy Kirke sailed on Saturday morning by Plymouth, and the wind being for them it is hoped they will arrive there by the end of this week.

It is believed the Earl of Plymouth is dead there of a bloody flux.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, Nov. 23. Dublin.—It is a good while since I was directed to send over two letters said to be put into my hands, the one by Sir Hans Hamilton sent from a Popish priest or friar in Portugal and found amongst one Dr. Hickey's papers after his death, the other by Mr. Serjeant Osborne; the former by great chance I found and sent to Mr. Secretary Coventry with my letter of the 12th of April last, but the latter I neither could nor can yet find. Both were given me before there was any discovery of the plot. The Portugal letter I made small account of, judging it ridiculous rather than dangerous, and I think it was so esteemed when it was read at Council. Of the other said to be written by Plunkett, the titular Primate, under the name of Cox, to one Quin, found in Fleming, the Tory's, pocket after he was killed, and therefore and for the matter of it conceived to be intended for the said Fleming, I took as little care, supposing it concerned nothing but the sending away of Fleming, who with others his followers and associates did much mischief in those parts they infested. The matter of Fleming's departure by connivance or passport out of the kingdom was in agitation by the means and interposition of Plunkett before I came last into Ireland, and, as I suppose, it was in order thereunto that Fleming himself was brought to my Lord of Essex by the present Lord Chief Baron Hene, but Fleming and seven of his accomplices being killed in February, 1677, there was a good end put to that negotiation, and there seemed to me there was no further use of that letter, yet for the further satisfaction of His Majesty and of my Lords of the Council I have caused all the circumstances of finding and disposing of the letter with an attested copy of it to be set down and sworn by those that had any part in it, all which your Lordship will find herewith enclosed to be disposed of as His Majesty shall command.

Postscript.—I have for two or three posts forgot to acquaint your Lordship that Peter Talbot, the titular Archbishop of Dublin, is dead, and that care was taken to have the body looked upon by some that knew him. I have received His Majesty's command for suspending certain payments for a year, signified in your Lordship's of the 13th instant, as also what my son Arran had order to write to me. In both His Majesty's pleasure shall be obeyed in the best manner I can.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 23. London.—I expected that yesterday and this day would have produced great matters, but my Lord Shaftesbury being ill of the gout, as he apprehends, could not

attend the House this day, and therefore the business relating to the Queen is put off. Our great debate this day was whether a committee of both Houses should be desired as you will see in the journals. 45 and 32 was the division, only one bishop in the affirmative, and that was Bath and Wells. The affairs relating to Ireland stand as they did when I writ on Saturday. You may find by this letter that it is more to show your Grace that I will not spare my pains than anything that I have to say worth your trouble. I think I can assure you now that my Lord Longford will leave this place on Thursday next and he will rectify all that I have writ in cypher if you cannot make it out. I wish I had a better.

Mr. Buck cannot hold out long, and I am afraid by what he told me this day, having sent for me on purpose, that he will leave his children in a very ill condition. He spoke of 400*l.* your Grace owed him this many years; he really deserves well from you. He will leave three sons and one daughter; the sons are very ingenious youths, and the daughter a modest young woman.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 23. London.—Though the Lords had appropriated yesterday merely for the receiving and debating expedients instead of the D. Y. Bill, and in order to so serious an employment had adjourned but till 8 o'clock, yet it so happened that the more diligent members keeping their hour punctually and finding their House too empty for the beginning a work of so great importance, to prevent idleness possessed themselves of a private cause between the widow of Sir Ed. Turner, the late Chief Baron, and his son (on an assurance it would be very short), which lasting till one o'clock, the business of the day was necessitated to be put off till this morning to the great regret of many whose palates were set to relish the discourses of the Queen's insufficiency. His Grace of Buckingham now first appeared, whose miserable looks betray his uncured indispositions. The effect of this disappointment hath antidoted all such removes for the future by an order that all private causes shall only be heard in afternoons. The Lords being met afterwards at the Committee of Examinations had this doubt presented them by the Attorney General. The case thus: upon new evidence old Mrs. Cellier is to be tried anew, the witnesses Mr. Dangerfield and Mr. Lewis (once Sir John Morton's rakehell footman); but the former lying under a conviction of perjury, the only crime the King refuses to insert in pardons (as most unqualifying for a credible witness), the Attorney General had not dependence on his testimony, wherefore Lewis brings one Seale to support his testimony, who he had hid in the room to witness the bargain Mrs. Cellier should make with him, which he doth to a tittle of what evidence Lewis had given in, but just before the trial (if I mistake not) when the jury was empanelled, the

Attorney General happening to consider that as Seale was so secretly hid as not to be seen, so neither could he see, and therefore demanding of Seale how he knew it to be Mrs. Cellier, answered, only by her voice and the series of her discourse; but this not coming up full to a proof satisfactory to a jury to take away one's life he craved their Lordships' direction whether he should proceed to the hazard of Mrs. Cellier's second escape or to respite the trial, but I do not find their Lordships thought it reasonable to take the thorn out of the Attor[ney's] foot to put into their own, so left him to his own discretion, who I hear respites the trial. Upon complaints made against the late changing of Justices, in most cases the abhorrrers ousting the petitioners, the committee (to whom it was referred) have curiously scrutinied into that matter in all counties, but not yet finished their report to be presented to the King. In Lancashire my Lord Macclesfield complained against one Justice for this crime, that he had divided the nation into three parts, knaves, fools and wise men; that the former made plots, the second believed them, but the third believed them not; this was more crafty than criminal, but to fill full his measure of iniquity he was rendered an abominable abhorrrer, to which even my black friend could reply, that this was not a tribunal to judge of that crime, they must go somewhere else to do it, which some ill eyes looked on as reflective on those who had been so severe against abhorrrers in the other House.

This day their Lordships began with expedients, that relating to the Q. was with modesty laid by, not to be resumed again, I hope, the King giving no encouragement to it, but much the contrary. What is agreed by way of expediency is contained under these five heads:—1. That an Act of Association such as was in Ed. 3 and Queen Eliz. reigns shall now be passed a part. 2. That all dispensation for the Duke taking the oaths and tests shall be expunged. 3. That he shall be divested of all those trusts and dignities he yet retains, whether relating to Ireland, Tangiers or the Indies. 4. That if any Parliament shall be then in being at the time of the King's demise, or if not, the surviving members of the last Parliament shall resume and sit six months indissolvable to settle the great affairs of the nation. 5. That neither the Duke nor any Popish successor shall ever have so much as any negative voice or be capable of conferring any honour dignity or employment, spiritual or temporal (whether military or civil). This is the furthest they have yet gone, according to my best intelligence, and all their Lordships did this day, saving joined with the Commons in an address to be presented to the King to appoint a public fast.

As for the acts and monuments of the Commons, their printed votes (which, I presume, are constantly transmitted to your Grace, or on the least hint to the contrary I shall (during my uncertain residence in these parts being tempted

by my doctor to the experiment of country air to shake off the loose corns of my distemper) constantly inclose to your Grace, those printed votes (I say) prevent all pens. To which I shall only add these short remarks :—That address against my Lord Halifax cost four hours' debate, the only avowed foundation on which it was built being common fame, and the crime alleged was giving the King evil counsel, which was aggravated by these two expressions,, clandestinely and secretly. Most of the best speakers in the House argued against it ; particularly my Lord Cavendish is reported to have spoken much beyond himself in this business, urging it as mere nonsense that common fame should publish what counsels were clandestinely and secretly delivered. At last those words were left out ; but the address was carried to be presented to the King to remove that evil Councillor both from His Majesty's counsels and presence for ever. This day I take myself to be concerned to be accountable to your Grace for what passed in the House of Commons, because the printed votes appear not till to-morrow. They have all day long been sifting the behaviour of two Judges, Scroggs and Weston. The former they have found to be so chaffey as to be fit to be removed out of all public employments, and accordingly have ordered an address to His Majesty. The latter's crime being only words tending to discountenance petitioning and to encourage abhorring (the nature of this new guilt amounting to that old unintelligible crime of being a betrayer of the liberties of the people,) and not yet fully proved, his doom is respited.

And thus having done with the public affairs in Parliament I shall present your Grace with an account of the great success this day's letters assured us of at Tangier, where the Moors were reintrenched some 15,000 strong; Sir Pal. Fairbone had the ill luck the day before to be killed with a chain shot, so that Col. Sackville commanded in chief. They entirely routed the Moors, killed 2,000 on the place, took all their cannon, three good pieces, and filled up all their trenches with the loss of 200 men. The Spanish horse (sent for our assistance) are much commended for their forward behaviour in this action. The Earl of Plymouth is dead of a fever in Tangier.

Now to what is more private. If your Grace will part with your interest in Needwood I can help your Grace to a chapman, whose interest when he hath purchased it will equally intitle your Grace to a command there as your own land. If you please to bite at this bait, be pleased to let me know the nature of your Grace's interest, both as to the title and its advantages.

I am importuned beyond my power of denial to recommend the case of a kinsman of mine to your Grace, one Sir Geo. Herbert, Bart., who it seems hath obtained a reference on some petition of his to His Majesty to your Grace. All I shall presume to ask is what I know I need not ask, as speedy a despatch with as much favour as the nature of the thing and the merit of that family will deserve.

My Lord Arran last night did me the favour to give me a visit, but the access of company shortened the visit, and so interrupted our discourse that his Lordship hath promised shortly to repeat that honour and lengthen our conference, that by comparing notes we may the better understand what is to be refused and what to be prevented.

I have enclosed the charge against Mr. Seymour, who is to give in his answer next Thursday; he seems to slight his charge, though Miles Fleetwood hath undertaken the proof of two articles and Mr. Vernon, of Derbyshire, the others. I confess I understand not how those two gentlemen come to be inspired with the knowledge of his accounts.

ORMOND to EARL OF SUNDERLAND.

1680, Nov. 24. Dublin.—Though Geoghegan, otherwise called Dalton has been in this kingdom from the 6th of this month, yet I heard nothing from him nor received your Lordship's letter of the 6th of October sent by him till the 20th, and then your Lordship's letter and passport and the order of Council concerning him were sent me by the Mayor of Waterford, after he had committed Geoghegan upon the information of one White and found those papers about him.

What course has been held by the Council here with the persons accused by Geoghegan and with himself will be transmitted to your Lordship in our joint letter. All I shall in the meantime observe is that Geoghegan has not so punctually as I conceive he ought pursued the orders which he brought, for they seem in the first place to direct him to receive directions, protection and assistance from the Government here, and I am by the order of Council required to cause such as shall be apprehended upon his information to be examined. But he has spent all the time since his landing in accusing of persons before the Mayor of Waterford and other Justices of the Peace in the country, without giving me notice of his landing or of the work he was upon; and how much longer he would have proceeded in that way and kept up your Lordship's letter and the order of Council if they had not been taken from him and sent me by the Mayor of Waterford I cannot tell; and if what he now says be true, namely, that one or two of those that were to have killed the King be near this place, I conceive he should have given the apprehending of them the preference before any other service he had in hand.

This intimation of what hath hitherto been done in relation to Geoghegan I thought necessary to send your Lordship, that it may appear that if he hath not or shall not succeed in his undertaking to the satisfaction of His Majesty and my Lords of the Council he may not impute his want of performance or the delay of it to the want of protection or assistance from this Government, having never applied to it till he was constrained by his imprisonment.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 24. Wednesday.—The Lords did nothing; they met late and rose early on this occasion. After they were bodily setting to the consideration of expedients, my Lord Shaftesbury made a surprising motion to lay them by on the table, it being too late to enter on them, and adjourn. It being a motion from him so zealous for the expedients was unresisted by any, and so both the expedients were deposited on the table and the House adjourned; all the rest of the expedients standing now as that particular one relating to the Q. did formerly, laid by *sine die*, to the amazement of many. I question not ere I conclude this paper (began on Wednesday) I shall be more able to unriddle the matter.

The Commons' votes will till Saturday's proceedings give an account of their transactions in that of their severe scrutiny against the Attorney General this day; he is observed to have contributed something to it by his indirect evasive answers to all their questions; but particularly when they demanded of him whether he drew up the proclamation against petitioning, confessed being newly entered into his employment he wanted experience to do it himself, but for his excuse why he could not mention the person who assisted him offers that it was against his oath, but when called in again and pressed to declare he owned it was my Lord Chief Justice North, though just before he had declared it against his oath to reveal it. Some excuse him by saying that when he was withdrawn he sent for and obtained both the King's and my Lord Chief Justice North's consent to name him. The consequence of that address is in print.

Nor doth Thursday, the 25th, prove a busy day with their Lordships. They resolved to join in that request this afternoon to address to the King for a public fast. They also address to the King for a general pardon for all witnesses against Tuesday next, the day of my Lord Stafford's trial, praying they may be copious enough to comprehend perjuries, which I believe the King will scarce grant, it being as it were to unperjure a witness, though one told me he heard the King say that even the evidence of a perjured person might be accompanied with such pregnant circumstances as to convict a malefactor. But the busiest concern of this day was to make up the Committee of Privileges, not only to regulate and resolve some doubts in cases of privilege, but chiefly to adjust all circumstances in order to my Lord Stafford's trial next Tuesday, when most think it will go hard with him, and that no other expedient (confession excepted) can save his Lordship, which lesson it is believed he hath learnt perfectly.

The Commons spent all this day on Mr. Seymour and his articles (which were inclosed in my last); they say he made an excellent defence, but that there is none against a House of Commons Flayle. The great question was whether he should be impeached without any more ado, taking it for granted that

Mr. Vernon of Derbyshire and Miles Fleetwood (Gustavus' half brother) can make good the articles because they have said they can; or whether they should be referred to the scrutiny of a Committee; the debate lasted so long (the best speakers and most thinking men arguing for that safe way to look before one leaps, and so keeping up the ball) till the hour of three was come (appointed for both Houses to attend the King in the Painted Chamber with the address for a public fast), that so both House and debate were necessitated to be adjourned to the morrow, so that the quondam Speaker is sure to live one day longer.

The 26th.—The Lords spent a whole day on a remnant of a cause between my Lady Dacre's and her grandchild Chute. At last their Lordships have referred those heads for expedients in lieu of the D. Y. bill to have them framed into an Act by the learned Judges; also to them is referred to frame the Bill of Association to resemble the form in Queen Elizabeth's days. I had almost forgot the King's answer to the Commons' address against my Lord Halifax. He advised them not to give too much credit to common fame, that he knew of no unlawful act that he had been guilty of, but if he had he referred him to the law, for he would neither protect him nor anyone else in the breach of any law. If I mistake in this the print will rectify me, as also inform concerning the other addresses and their answers, which if I thought others did not I would constantly enclose.

Nov. 27.—This day the Lords ordered a committee of these five: Salisbury, Essex, Ailesbury, Wharton and Howard of Escrick to meet with ten commoners to make up a committee of both Houses to adjust things in order to Tuesday's trial, though I vehemently suspect that the time is so short that some delay will be put upon the hearing. My Lord Ailesbury came in my Lord Shaftesbury's room, who, to the wonder of many, excused himself, which my Lord Ailesbury had also done, but that he happened to be out of the House for the debate, for the having such a committee of both Houses was not without heat, and my Lord Ailesbury was one of the opponents. This new committee met at three, though created after 12, to show their zeal to serve my Lord Stafford.

The matter of most moment in the House of Commons this day (and that not small) was an address brought in by Mr. Hamden. It is not to be wondered that it consisted of two sheets of paper, when 'tis considered what it contained, all the miscarriages past and grievances present, in its close an assurance to the King that if he pleased to apply remedies not only Tangier but all other His Majesty's necessary wants should be satisfied. I mention not Mr. Seymour's doom, because the printed votes saves that labour, nor have I anything more to add at this time, but that Captain Richard Bertie told me that accidentally meeting with Sir JH. Ingoldsby, amongst other discourses he told him when the Parliament

were at leisure he had a pretty story (as he termed it) to relate to them concerning the Duke of Ormond. Incensed Rich. was so nettled to hear his general so very disrespectfully mentioned that had not Sir H. been silenced by the company it had proceeded to a quarrel. This I thought it my duty to insert. I shall be constant in giving the best account I can of all things during my stay here, but Monday sennight I go hence to my Lord Poulett's to a meeting of all the trustees for that young Lord, if I am able, for I cannot yet say I am recovered, but as soon as I return to this city I will also return to the performance of this duty.

ORMOND to SIR L. JENKINS.

1680, Nov. 25. Dublin.—By what comes to us of public affairs it is very possible that when the bearer, Sir John Davys, shall arrive there may not presently be an opportunity given to vindicate himself against the calumnies thrown upon by him by some of the witnesses that went hence and were heard at the bar of the Lords' House. Yet he chooses rather to undergo a very inconvenient voyage than to lie under the ill impressions those persons may have left with the Lords of him. I can assure you upon more than three years' experience that the gentleman is beyond question faithful to the King and very capable of discharging the duties of his place, and that he hath been as diligent in promoting the discovery of the Plot as it was possible for him or anybody in his station to be and when you shall have time to discourse with him, you will receive satisfaction from him in what concerns this kingdom.

ORMOND to THE KING.

1680, Nov. 25. Dublin.—Sir John Davys, Your Majesty's Secretary here, finding it convenient for him to pass into England to justify himself against some very unreasonable reflections cast upon him in the examinations of some discoverers and witnesses that went out of this kingdom, I hold it to be part of my duty to inform your Majesty that to the best of my observation he hath always carried himself with great diligence and ability in such things relating to your service as were incident to his office or required from him, and more particularly I am able to say that in the examination of all things and persons relating to the discovery of the Plot he has been as industrious and faithful as it was possible for any man in his place to be. I must therefore beg leave to believe that those who do or shall prosecute him have some other end than your Majesty's service wherein I think him very faithful and zealous.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 27. London.—I have herein inclosed the votes of the House of Commons yesterday, their address for

removing the Earl of Halifax, the articles of impeachment brought in against Mr. Seymour, and a letter from the Privy Council of Scotland to His Majesty concerning the Duke, which are the most considerable things of news in this age of printing. This afternoon the committee of Lords and Commons met to adjust matters in order to the trial of the Lord Stafford, which is to be on Tuesday next.

We lately received a confirmation of the great success that His Majesty's forces had at Tangier, with some farther particulars, that our men, horse and foot, were not above 1,800 that sallied out, who killed 600 or 700 of the Moors there in their trenches, regained two great guns, and pursued them above a mile into the country. We lost about 70 men on the place, 100 more dangerously wounded, and 100 horses slain and made useless. Sir Palmes Fairbone, the Governor, was killed the day before the engagement, as likewise was Mr. Forbes, son to the Lord Granard. The Earl of Plymouth's body is very shortly expected home, he having died this month ago of a bloody flux.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 27. London.—I have found out since I wrote on Tuesday some of the printed narratives made use of by my brother last Parliament. They give an account of proceedings there down to the 7th of April, 1679, and the narrative sent after me makes out the rest, but there has been no use of them yet. Lt. Col. Kennedy, whom your Grace had so long in gaol, I am informed, is to be a great informer against you and the Government. My Lord Longford has been troubled with a sore throat, which has delayed his journey; but he is already pretty well recovered.

Mr. Ellis is put into the execution of the Baly's place of Westminster, but it has cost him a great deal of money to Stroud; he is to give him a thousand pound, and pay you the 500*l.* due upon Stroud's bond. Sir James Butler having satisfied me that it was no way justifiable or honourable for you to receive money upon this account, made me, on your behalf, refer the matter to the Bishop and my Lord Chancellor. Mr. Thomas Butler will be satisfied also.

You will find by the printed account from Tangier that my Lord Granard's son is killed, and your page that was, Fitzpatrick; Cap. Porce and Lieut. Gilbert Butler wounded.

SIR JOHN DAVYS to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Nov. 28. Mostyn.—I was resolved neither adverse winds nor any other consideration should detain me longer at Dublin, and, therefore, I put to sea the other day to try my fortune, which has proved so good that I landed here the last night late, and this morning Sir Roger Mostin did send one to Chester on purpose to secure the Thursday's

coach there to carry me, my wife and children for London, for that higher power called a wife will not suffer me to go without her and the rest of our appurtenances, she being resolved we shall stand or fall all together. So as your Lordship sees how many of us are coming under your protection, for which confidence I have nothing else to offer besides my innocence and your Lordship's own nobleness, and they, I hope, will be every way as prevailing as they are great. My wife gives your Lordship her service and both of us lay ourselves at my Lady's feet.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Nov. 28. Dublin.—Yours of the 16th and 20th came together, and now we are impatient for those of the 23rd, supposing that every three days must produce something extraordinary. Your former letters said some things by command from the King. The chief was the recruiting of the Scotch Regiment, the intention of sending men hither to supply the place of unserviceable soldiers, and that of ammunition. You know Lieut. Col. Monro is gone for Scotland in order to get recruits, and he is daily expected with them. The men are to be sent hither as promised, as you will see by the copy of the King's letter, but how they shall be raised and conducted to us or when we shall have them is not expressed; and it will be necessary we having warning enough to make room for them, but of that I doubt there is but little fear.

I saw it in a letter from a Parliament man that it was affirmed more than once in the House of Commons that in this army ten of fifteen were Papists. I hope such as take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance and that receive the sacrament after the use of the Church of England go not under that imputation, and then nothing could be more impudently false than such an assertion.

The matter offered by my Lord Chamberlain and you to my consideration is much too hard for me to resolve on. If the King answers addresses to the satisfaction of those that make them in the cases before him, I have little reason to expect an exemption in mine, when the like shall be made concerning me; and against accusations as they may be brought, I know not how to be defended from appearing to answer, so that I think it best to leave myself to God and the King. I cannot so much as suspect upon what ground capital things can be laid to my charge, and of such commonly impeachments are composed.

CLERK OF THE PELL'S CERTIFICATE OF TREASURY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, 8-29 NOV., 1680.

1680, Nov. 29.—Receipts in His Majesty's Treasury from the 8th of November, 1680, to Monday, the 29th day foll. exd.

The remain in the Vice-Treasurer's hands upon the last certificate ending the said 8 Nov. 303 09 01½

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------|--------------------|
| Leinster | ..New Patent Rents.... | 471 17 02½ | |
| | Rents on Decrees, etc.. | 086 08 11 | |
| | Old Crown Rents | 262 02 11½ | |
| | Casualties | 051 17 06½ | |
| Munster | ..New Patent Rents.... | 101 12 07½ | |
| | Rents on Decrees, etc.. | 024 07 06½ | |
| | Custod Rents | 006 18 00 | |
| | Old Crown Rents | 006 18 09 | |
| | Quit Rents | 000 08 09½ | |
| | Casualties | 001 05 00 | |
| Connaught | ..New Patent Rents.... | 082 11 04½ | |
| | Old Crown Rents | 012 07 01½ | |
| | Quit Rents | 000 10 01½ | |
| | Casualties | 011 14 04 | |
| Ulster |New Patent Rents.... | 001 03 05 | |
| | Old Crown Rents | 055 15 04½ | |
| | | | 1177 19 00½ |
| Farmers | ..By money paid into the Treasury.. | 808 08 00 | |
| | By orders of assignments into the country | 8975 01 00½ | |
| | | | <hr/> 11264 17 02½ |

Payments made within the said time

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Civil List | ..Court of Exchequer .. | 170 00 01 | |
| | Chancery | 030 05 00 | |
| | State offices..... | 210 00 00 | |
| | Incidents | 026 05 00 | |
| | Creation Money | 017 10 00 | |
| | Perpetuities | 036 03 04 | |
| | Temporary Payments.. | 569 07 00 | |
| | Concordatums | 588 15 02 | |
| | | | <hr/> 1648 05 07 |
| Military List | Officers of the Ordnance | 150 00 00 | |
| | List of Pensions..... | 263 00 00 | |
| Payments made pursuant to His Majesty's letters of the 20th of June, 1679..... | | 619 15 07½ | |
| | | | <hr/> £2681 01 02½ |
| So remains in the Vice-Treasurer's hands.... | | 8583 16 00½ | |
| | | | <hr/> £11264 17 02½ |

Ex. p. Ja. Alexander, Dept. Cler. Pell.

EARL OF SUNDERLAND to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 30. Whitehall.—I received upon Sunday several letters from your Grace and the Council of Ireland of the 19th and 23rd instant, together with several informations, examinations and papers relating to the accusation against

the Earl of Tyrone, and the proceedings and discoveries which have been given or made to the Government of Ireland concerning the horrid Popish Plot, all which were by His Majesty's command yesterday morning sent to the House of Lords, who have transmitted them to the Commons. I must observe to your Grace that amongst the papers relating to the Earl of Tyrone two were wanting, though mentioned in the list sent with them, vizt., the Earl of Tyrone's examination taken before Justice Jones, March 20th, 1678, and the further examination of Laurence Sullivan, dated Novem. 8th, 1679.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 30. London.—The Lords yesterday were so intent on the work of this day (the trial of my Lord Stafford) that they admitted of no divertive debate, but only received reports from the committee of both Houses of agreements in order to the methods and proceedings at the trial, which they having confirmed proceeded to consider what was to be their parts apart. The Commons resolved to sit at the trial in the nature of a committee (not House), not so much out of humility as to have a plausible excuse to sit bare. The Chancellor took public notice in the House that there were thirty-five witnesses to be examined against my Lord Stafford. The Commons, to employ their idle hours till their Committee returned to make their report, read over two Bills, one to repeal a Bill surreptitiously obtained last Parliament very injudiciously to restrain our Severn fishery; the other was a second reading of a Bill for the taking away my Lord Worcester's Ludlow Court for Wales, which I thought would not have passed that House; but I am very sure it will not meet with the concurrence of either King or House of Lords. In the afternoon the Commons attended His Majesty in the banqueting house, with their long address, which had been much more voluminous had not the more moderate party overruled it, to expunge all other miscarriages and grievances, and singly to insist on Popery, its progress and consequence, taking notice of all circumstances that could expose it, so much as Coleman's secretaryship. I presume it will be so soon in print that it will not need description. This being in answer to the King's message about Tangier was sweetened in the close with an assurance that as well the King's other wants as Tangier should be supplied, when the jealous minds of the subject could be secured in that most important particular. Two things many members took great notice of, the one that the King took the paper without giving one word of answer, which he never did before, the other that the Duchess of Portsmouth who used to speed her gracious salutes over all the members, tho' where she used to be, diverted herself with the King's dogs as more preferable, not heeding any one member, tho' expected by many; whether or no she took herself concerned, though not mentioned in the address, or saw further in

relation to what is to be than others, is conjectured variously, but certainly known by none, as it is that this hath exasperated many. But I understand this day her Grace hath endeavoured to redintegrate herself with the members by treating them most bountiful with sweetmeats at the trial, the manner where of was thus.

The Commons met early, and fondness of the show made them moulder away and slip into the hall, that at last the Speaker was left almost all alone, wherefore for decency sake the Mace was sent to remand them, that so in due decorum, though but as a committee, they might descend into the hall. The Lords thought proper to read the High Steward's commission in the House, not hall, which Prince Rupert opposed, for that would intitle the Chancellor to take place of him, going to the trial; the expedient was that the commission should be read in the House, but he should retain his place but as Chancellor till the staff was delivered him in the hall, and so their Lordships proceeded thither, where my Lord Chancellor directed a short speech to the criminal, advised him seriously to consider his condition, which looked very desperate, 1, considering the nature of his accuser, the Commons of all England in their representatives. 2. The heinousness of the accusations to no less than the highest of treasons. 3. The considerableness of his judges, the nobility of England, that it was strongly to be presumed that so great and so wise a body as the House of Commons would not appear there unless they were well assured of making good their charges, but withal assured him he should have fair play, all civility in the proceedings, and justice at the end. Then the managers of the evidence proceeded, Maynard began to open the charge, Winington most eloquently aggravated the circumstances, Treby proposed the six witnesses now to be examined. Their method was first to prove that there was a Popish plot, and that not only to subvert religion, but also to take away the King's life. The six witnesses to make that out were, 1 Smyth, 2 Dugdale, 3 Prance, 4 Oates, 5 Bernard Dennis, who owned himself not only a Papist but also a priest (at which my Lord Chancellor, (Lord High Steward) was uneasy to take his testimony till he understood he was pardoned), 6 Janeson; all six, they say, have cleared it so far. And that was all the work of this day. To-morrow comes on the use of application, the intitling this person of my Lord Stafford to that guilt of those highest treasons, and more of it in my next, for I presume two or three days will end this business. My Lord Norreys commands me in all my letters to repeat him your Grace's most humble servant.

Wednesday, Dec. 1st.—This day, as soon as the Lords met, the Lord High Steward acquainted them that he had received intimation that the Lord Stafford would make his complaint, that though their Lordships had allowed him counsel, he could have no benefit of it, all Counsel were so

terrified by the House of Commons that none durst appear. The Commons at first opposed the motion, but at last yielded it, provided they might be permitted only to speak to points in law, and not to matters of fact, and that they might be kept at such a distance as not to be able to prompt the prisoner, all which being accorded to, the managers called their evidence.

1. Dugdale.—My Lord moved he might look him in the face whilst he was giving his evidence, but according to constant practice he was ordered to turn to the Court, he told of three several times that my Lord Stafford had vehemently pressed him to kill the King, promising great rewards sometimes and once a pardon; it was thought the pardon was to have been granted by the D. Y., which made the Commons much more inquisitive who was to grant it, but he answered the Pope. My Lord Stafford asked many ensnaring questions, but he at least had his lesson so perfectly as not to be ensnared by them, but was very clear in his evidence.

2. Dr. Oates was next, who craved leave to be left to his own method and be uninterrupted; he spoke positively as to my Lord Stafford having received his commission, and his owning and encouraging the killing of the King, with many shrewd circumstances, nor could any cross-questions discompose him.

3. Lastly Turberville was examined, who positively swore his Lordship, after he had exacted secrecy from him and prepared him to expect the most glorious employment in the world, told him in plain terms it was to kill the King. He being asked how long he had known the Plot, said four years, and then why he did not discover it sooner, replied because he durst not for his life, till the time of trial. One thing was remarkable, that as my Lord had disowned the knowledge of the other two, so did he as to this, till he offered to prove that my Lord kept a yacht on purpose to bring him over from France. Then he confessed that when he had cowardly run away from his colours he merely out of charity received him, but Turberville appealed to the Duke of Monmouth and Lord Feversham to justify his behaviour, who did so.

Then my Lord Stafford in a long immethodical speech (for it seems his behaviour did not answer expectation) endeavoured his vindication, and at last moved for copies of all records, and particularly of Turberville's depositions before the Commons, but no such things were owned by that House, who had no power to give an oath; it seems a circumstance of time my Lord Stafford thought to take advantage of. The Lords withdrew to appoint the time for the next appearance which was ordered Thursday morning, and directions given to furnish his Lordship with all records, but as for the depositions in the Commons' House they made no order, but the Commons have consented that the Justices who

took them shall give my Lord copies that he may have fair play in all things. It seems the Lord High Steward on a note he received from my Lord Shaftesbury gave encouragement to the prisoner to insist on Friday, but he not desiring of it when the Lords returned into the Lords' House, my Lord Grey and Lord Lovelace severely arraigned the Lord High Steward for proposing anything without the order of that House till my Lord Shaftesbury owned the crime, and then it ceased to be one.

Thursday, Dec. 2.—My Lord Stafford produced his witnesses to invalidate the testimony of the three had been examined the day before against him. But I hear my Lord's defence was very weak. First he read a long speech, written by his counsel so imperfectly that in many places he made it unintelligible, and then in his counterproofs he had always the ill luck or ill skill to place most emphasis upon things least important, so many were examined that they rose not till after four, and yet his Lordship was sorry to leave four till to-morrow. When the Lords were returned to their House they appointed the next morning to meet again, and when the Commons were returned again to adjourn their House Mr. Secretary Jenkins delivered them this message from the King that one Dr. Lamplew had examined three witnesses on oath and all three gave in evidence that they heard one Pickering (brother to the priest who was executed) swear God damn him, that if the King should suffer any one of the five Lords to be put to death, he himself should not live six months to an end. His Majesty desired their advice what to do in the matter. They returned superabundant humble thanks and appointed early the next morning to meet to consider of it, and then to address to his Majesty.

Friday, Dec. 3.—Both Houses and the prisoner met in the court, where my Lord Stafford's business was to examine the rest of his witnesses, to assert his own innocence and criminate the King's evidence, but his witnesses were so reproached by the managers that they proved ineffectual in either case. One of his witnesses, on which much stress was laid, when he heard the questions were to be demanded of him, ran away out of the court and was never seen since; and another, called a person of quality and learning, a fellow of King's College in Cambridge and a Protestant, but he was detected in open Court to be an arrant Papist, and for eight years last past secretary to my Lord Castlemaine, his name Ledcot. To say truth none of the witnesses did answer expectation, either by reason of the meanness of their quality or their labouring hard some small circumstances not pertinent to the business; besides a cloud of witnesses called by the managers to support the credit and testimony of Dugdale and Turberville. Mr. Treby (chairman of the Committee of Elections) is chose Recorder of London in the room of Sir Geo. Jeffreys, against whom the Commons had addressed

to the King to have had him turned out of all employments. It seems many are disgruntled at it who (if they might be Judges) would give preference to their own merit, Sir Fran. Winington for one and Mr. Trenchard for another, and many others all expecting and desiring it. Last night after eleven these quarters were hotly alarmed by a fire happening in Westminster Hall, which discovered itself by the smoke; the hurt might have been much more than it was, they were so long ere they could overcome the strength of the door; as soon as ever they were got in the fire was soon quenched, it having only burnt down a corner of a shop, kindled by a soldier's lighted match, who, in the hurry of the Courts rising, forgot to take his match with him. The King in person was just coming to the Hall as he met an assurance that the fire was out. The Lieut. of the Tower (Tom Cheeke) had yesterday a severe clash with Dr. Oates, who had so crowded the room that was designed for the witnesses with his own friends, who under his shelter came to see the show that Tom Cheeke took notice of it to him, who bade him cease his prating, that he was but a gaoler. The other seemed to resent it. He then called Tom rogue and rascal, etc., which grew to that height that the Lords overheard them and when Oates was rebuked by the Lord High Steward replied the law was open and Mr. Cheeke might take his remedy. There it stops at present. Pickering, who I mentioned on Thursday, is sent for up.

This day the 4th of December was appointed for my Lord Stafford to finish the examination of his witnesses, he pretending at the rising of the Court last night that he had eight material witnesses, who he could not name, because others had found them out for him. The Court was uneasy to deny his Lordship anything, but desired that his Lordship would weigh the evidence before he offered them to the Court. This morning after the examination of two, who disowned any knowledge of what they were asked, my Lord attended with great symptoms of sadness, resigned up the other six witnesses, and, as it were, his cause with them, for he made a most insipid defence, pretend [ing] he durst boldly look death in the face, and plied his tears on the account of his wife and children. Then Sir Tho. Jones, mighty sweet in words, but sour enough in sense, not leaving anything to be addable by any should speak after. Yet then my Lord Stafford craved to be answered to these four questions and that he might make them by his counsel, being all points in law: 1. Whether two several persons deposing to several actions, though both amount to treason, may be allowed for two lawful witnesses by the act that enacts two witnesses in all treason. The Judges all gave this judgment, which was that both proving the same treason were good enough. 2. Whether an indictment could be valid in this which was brought in the last. It was over-ruled in the affirmative. 3. Whether a Grand Jury

ought not to find the bill proved. Answered his Lordship knew to the contrary. The last article was that the witness swore for reward and had it. Answer, What the King gave was nothing, or any one else unless they could prove the prosecutors gave them anything. So his Lordship is to come on Monday, I presume to receive sentence. The proclamation for a public fast the 22nd of this month, being Wednesday.

EARL OF ABBAN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 30. London.—Though there came in three packets on Sunday night last, yet I received not yours of the 16th and 19th until late last night, and before I had received them Mr. Bridgeman had given the narrative to the Clerk of the House of Commons without reading or keeping a copy of it. I hope Sir John Davys will bring a copy with him. I shall keep by me the answer to the objections against disarming the Protestants in '63, but I cannot yet with certainty learn what will be laid on your charge. I am told that one article will be that you sent Sir George Lane some years ago to a meeting of Irish clergy and that he sat in council with them by your direction; to which I have no answer, but that I believe it not true.

This day has been taken up upon the trial of my Lord Stafford, which has sufficiently tired me. I shall the first opportunity prepare His Majesty in the business you mention concerning Rolls, and will know his pleasure before the next post in the affair of the Commissioners of Appeal. The managers took up our time in proving a plot in general, and to-morrow they come to the particular charge. I observed that Oates did not mention you in his deposition.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, Nov. 30. London.—The trial this day begun of the Lord Stafford took up the eyes and minds of all people. The Lord Chancellor sat as High Steward, but without commission. The managers of the House of Commons who this day appeared were Serjeant Maynard, who first opened the matter, Sir Fra. Winington, Mr. Treby, Mr. Hambden, and Sir John Trevor. The method that was taken was to lay open the plot in general, Dr. Oates, Mr. Dugdale, Mr. Smith, Mr. Jenison, Mr. Prance, and Mr. Barnard Dennis (at this time a Dominican Friar of the county of Sligo, in Ireland), upon oath gave an account of a general design of murdering the King and subverting the religion and Government; after which were produced several copies of the records of the convictions and condemnations of Langhorne, Coleman, Pickering, Grove, etc., all which were brought as proofs, and they concluded this day with summing up the evidence that there was a general plot in England, Scotland and Ireland carried on by the Popish faction. The particular proofs against the Lord Stafford was deferred till to-morrow, and his Lordship

hath put off his answer to the general plot as well as to his own particular concern in it till the witnesses against him have ended their evidence.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 1. Dublin.—Yours of the 23rd of November is received, which is all the answer it requires. Upon my motion a new proclamation for disarming of Papists without excepting those that had licences is set forth, but it will be liable to the same exception the other was of giving of warning, no other so good a way being found upon long debate at Council, where this course was unanimously agreed upon. I am sorry that after all I have done for Buck he should be in danger of dying in so ill condition. I am sure he has raised good sums of money upon places he had here, and upon one I gave him in the household, besides above 100*l.* a year he has long made and still makes of a farm he has from me, of which, perhaps, 40*l.* may be the interest of the 400*l.* he speaks of. This is not to avoid the doing all the good I can to his children, for whom I shall be much concerned in consideration of his long and faithful service to me and my family.

MINUTE OF A COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DUBLIN.

3 December, 1680. Present :—

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lord Granard. | Sir Oliver St. George. |
| Lord Blessington. | Sir Wm. Stewart. |
| Sir Wm. Flower. | Col. Cary Dillon. |
| Sir Theoph. Jones. | Capt. Rob. Fitzgerald. |
| | Capt. Edw. Brabazon. |

There are quartered in the province of

| | |
|--|---|
| Leinster. | Munster. |
| Horse, 10 Troops; Foot, 15 Companies. | Horse, 5 Troops; Foot, 24 Companies. |
| Ulster. | Connaught. |
| Horse, 6 Troops; Foot, 19 Companies. | Horse, 3 Troops; Foot, 12 Companies. |

There may be drawn to do duty at Dublin :—

Two troops of horse out of Leinster. One troop of horse out of Ulster. One troop of horse out of Munster. None out of Connaught till all the rest have taken their turns, because there are so few horse there. Two foot companies out of Leinster at present. One company out of Ulster. Two companies out of Munster. One company out of Connaught. To be upon duty two months. To begin immediately or at what time his Grace shall think most convenient.

EARL OF BURLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 4. Dublin.—I had sooner acknowledged the the receipt of the honour of your Grace's letter, but that I

was for some days kept in by the gout, which treated me more favourably than it usually does, and left me just when my Lord Stafford's trial began, which has tied us to such long and strict attendance that we have scarce had time either to eat or rest. Last night the examination of the witnesses on both sides was finished, as this day will be, I believe, the summing of the evidence and then judgment will be pronounced within a day or two after. A weaker defence I have not observed than was made by his Lordship, nor evidence better ordered than was that of the House of Commons, which your Grace will easily believe when Sir William Jones, Serjeant Maynard and Sir Francis Winington were three of the principal managers. Many are of opinion that nothing can save his life but a full discovery of the Plot, since the evidence is so full against him as they conceive it to be, and it was last night affirmed in the House that he was very inclinable to do so, if the importunities of his daughter, the Marquise of Winchester, did not keep him from doing of it, upon which it was moved that she might be kept from him, but that being thought to be an act of so much harshness, that motion was quashed.

I must with great thankfulness acknowledge your Grace's favour to me in the commission you were pleased to grant me lately of the government of the county of Cork, and in making upon my request Lieutenant Supple sheriff of that county, and do wish that I had any occasion to evidence the sense I have both of these and those other favours your Grace has placed upon me.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 4. London.—This day being the fifth of my Lord Stafford's trial was taken up by Sir William Jones, Mr. Powle, and Sir Francis Winington, appointed managers by the House of Commons in summing up the evidence against the prisoner. The method they observed was, as in the beginning of the trial, first to speak to the Plot in general and then to come to the particular proof against the Lord Stafford and to disprove the witnesses produced in his behalf, which by his Lordship's ill management of his evidence he had given them great opportunity to do. My Lord concluded with three points of law, which he desired his counsel, Mr. Wallop and Mr. Hunt might speak to, the first was whether a Bill ought not first to be found by a Grand Jury before a peer came to be tried by his peers, which was over-ruled by the Court by reason that an impeachment of the House of Commons was in the same nature with a Bill found by a Grand Jury, and therefore counsel not allowed to speak in that matter. My Lord Stafford likewise asked the judgment of the Court concerning the method of impeachment, whether one being brought in one Parliament could be tried in a succeeding Parliament, which was affirmed by the Court to be the constant

practice of all Parliaments. The second matter of law the prisoner insisted upon was that there was no overt act of treason proved against him, and that the witnesses speaking to discourses he had with them at several times could not be said to be witnesses to the same fact, and so there were not two witnesses against him. This my Lord Stafford insisted upon, and that his counsel should be heard to that point. Mr. Wallop, his Lordship's counsel assigned, said that he was not prepared to speak to that point, but desired the Court to determine therein. Whereupon the Court rose and went to the House of Lords, where after a very short debate the Lords returned again, and my Lord Steward told the prisoner at the bar that their Lordships had ordered the Judges to give their opinions in that matter. They declared unanimously their opinions that the receiving a commission, the proffering Dugdale money and speaking to Turberville to kill the King was an overt act, and that the witnesses swearing all to a treason of the same nature, though it was at several times and places were sufficient evidence of the treason. After which the Court adjourned till Monday, and then it is believed judgment will be given against my Lord Stafford.

The trial hath so taken up the Lords that there hath been no Council this week, only five or six met on Wednesday last, where Mr. Secretary Jenkins brought a letter just then received by the post from Dr. Lampleigh, a Justice of Peace of Oxford, which gave an account that three sufficient men of the neighbourhood had deposed before him that one Pickering, brother to him that was hanged for designing to shoot the King, had said that if the King tried the Popish Lords in the Tower he should not live half a year after. Mr. Secretary acquainted His Majesty therewith, who ordered it the next morning to be transmitted to the House of Commons. Pickering is in custody, and the House have sent for him up.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 4. London.—Since my last I have your Grace's of the 19th and 28th of the last month, and was very glad to find the latter writ in your own hand for by Mr. Secretary Gascoigne's of the 23rd I had reason to apprehend your being laid up of the gout. Ever since Tuesday last we have sat until night upon the trial of my Lord Stafford, and now all is heard, and upon Monday next sentence is to be given after we have debated some points amongst ourselves. Sir William Jones summed up the evidence and did it with great dexterity, and his Lordship made his defence with very little, yet it is uncertain which way it will go, for though three witnesses have sworn point blank against him as Oates, Dugdale, and Turberville, they are not thought so credible witnesses by some of the Lords as the managers of the evidence would have them pass for. But let this trial go one way or other it must needs be of infinite consequence.

The King, I believe, will determine himself on this side the business of the Commissioners of Inspection, and for what relates to the Scots Regiments recruits I have spoken to the parties most concerned in it long since.

I hear every post of great apprehensions and new discoveries from Munster and that from Lords Essex and Burlington. I wonder your Grace sends me no account of it; and yesterday Lord Shaftesbury informed the House of a titular Bishop that would make great discoveries. I wish you had an abler man than I am upon the place to act in these intricate times and affairs, for I wish with all my heart that I were in some quiet retirement; yet my comfort is that I find many whom you account wise men as much to seek as myself.

I hear from Matt. Anderson that my Lord Tyrone will be here on Wednesday next, and from Sir John Davys, who is now at Mostyn, that he will be here the Saturday following the Thursday's stage coach, being taken up by my Lord Tyrone.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 4. London.—I presume my wife has acquainted your Grace with a sudden indisposition which has detained me here a fortnight longer than I intended, but being (I thank God) now pretty well recovered, if I find no alteration in my health between this and Wednesday next I resolve then to begin my journey, for I have stayed here so long to find that I can be no further useful to your Grace, since the world does not desire to be informed so much of the truth and convinced of the innocency of those upon whom scandals are cast, as it does to have persons of the best quality and most known loyalty represented criminal. This I intimate only with relation to your Grace, against whom your enemies are maliciously industrious to cast all aspersions imaginable to prepare the way for those riff-raff articles are designed to be brought in against you into the House of Commons, who are not yet at leisure to receive them, having for the present work enough upon their hands. I am told, to raise the clamour greater, there is a collection made of all my Lord Meath's articles, of all those libellous reflections Peter Talbot made upon your former Government, as also of what stuff has been gathered together since your Lordship's going into Ireland; and the sum of all is to remove your Grace from the Government, which is not thought secure, but in a confiding hand or with a thorough English Protestant (which is now the phrase in mode).

These four last days have been spent in the evidence against my Lord Stafford and his Lordship's defence, both which are this day concluded, and the Lords have taken time till Monday morning to give sentence, which, 'tis generally believed, will be against his Lordship. But my Lord Arran, who was pre-

sent upon the place, and a witness of the whole transaction, is better able to inform your Grace than I who have been confined to my chamber. My Lord Shaftesbury has got a pardon for a titular Bishop and another ecclesiastic who are to come in as discoverers of the Plot from beyond sea.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 6. Dublin.—I have received yours of the 27th, of the last and hope my Lord Longford will be soon here to help my defect if the gout takes me in my right hand as it threatens. Sir John Davys, I suppose, will be with you before this letter. He carries with him all that this place can furnish for the vindication of the Government, one of the greatest omissions whereof was the not hanging of Kennedy. Sir James Butler's last letter to me concerning the bailiwick of Westminster seemed rather to justify the steward's taking money for the place as a thing practised in all times, but in the present case I know not how it could be since there was not a clear vacancy, but would have been as glad you had told me more particularly what was referred to my Lord Chancellor and the Bishop and what was determined. I send you a printed copy I set forth by advice of a Council of War. The penalties, by whomsoever it shall be incurred, will be strictly inflicted, which it were good might be known to all the officers that are on that side the water.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 7. London.—This day my Lord Stafford was found guilty of treason; the peers were 86 in number, 32 not guilty, 54 guilty. I suppose Mr. Mulys will send your Grace the names of those who voted for and against him. I shall only observe that of five peers in his family or name four found him guilty, and all the gentlemen of His Majesty's bedchamber, but my Lord Bath, were for guilty.

My Lord Suffolk desired me to write to you about the money due from you to Churchill, which I find is assigned to him. It seems I mistook his letter to me when I was in Ireland, for I thought by that he had been satisfied another way.

My Lord Tyrone will be here to-morrow, and I believe he will go the same way my Lord Stafford is like to go, for we are in a way now of making precedents, and following none but such as make for the present purpose.

COL. EDWARD COOKE to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 7. London.—This morning I begin my tedious western journey to do that young Lord Poulett the best service I can, carrying along with me the remains of this new fever. I hope to be back again next Saturday fortnight. All I can now say is my own conjectures only, that my Lord

Stafford will at length be acquitted, many being dissatisfied at different circumstances. The learned scruple of the legality of an impeachment being turned over from one Parliament to another. Others are not well satisfied how mean words without any overt act should extend to treason, making this nice distinction,—had money been produced and promised to be the reward of him that should kill the King, that had been an overt act, but a mere promise are but words, and many others cannot reconcile themselves to the witnesses, who it seems have been guilty of shrewd mistakes in circumstances of time, and many believe the better of my Lord for his weak management, for never was a poorer defence made. On the whole matter every scruple looks a voice of theirs who make it, so that I foresee his Lordship will this day be acquitted, though I shall not stay to see it, nor the consequence of it. It seems the managers for the House of Commons have three fresh witnesses, but are not willing to make them threadbare, concluding two witnesses to fall in the same particular that they conclude him as good as condemned already, that I apprehend the consequence of this disappointment.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to SIR ROBERT SOUTHWELL.

1680, Dec. 9. Oxford.—I missed the opportunity which I desired of kissing your hands at London and welcoming your safe return from your embassy, and therefore am the more concerned to lay hold of the opportunity which your kinsman now gives of addressing to you. Your client my Lord Courcy now grows up towards a man, and is desirous to look abroad into the world; he has few friends, and scarce any one who with so much charity and honour looks upon his broken fortunes; and therefore I must recommend him to your favour, which he has long experimented, that thereby he may either be placed in some military employment or attend my Lord Ossory in his travel, or be some way disposed of as may be for his future advantage; for I perceive he thinks his longer continuance here a disparagement; and when men are once weary of an University life it ceases to be useful. If Sir John Percival be with you I desire you would be pleased to recommend my service to him.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 11. London.—I have your Grace's letter of the 1st inst., and with it one of the proclamations you have lately agreed upon for the disarming anew the Papists, which shall be given about, tho' I know 709 will say he is the occasion of that. Since my Lord Stafford's trial our House has been chiefly taken up with hearing causes upon writs of error and appeals, and the House of Commons with the examining Mr. Secretary Jenkins and examining and punishing Mr. Thomas Sheridan, as you will find by the printed votes.

I cannot learn what is intended to be brought in against you, nor when that which is collected will be delivered, but I am told that something is drawn up, but not intended by way of impeachment. Mr. Mulys has engaged to my Lord Chamberlain to look about, and what charge he may be put to and his pains I have promised shall be considered, for it will be of great use to have a copy early of the charge, and people will not now take pains in another body's business for nothing.

Ned Vernon is in trouble yet about his business. He intends after next term to go over, and then he will plead any way rather than be so troublesome to you as he has been. Mr. Buck is yet alive, but past hope of recovery. He told me when I was last with him that he sold a place at Court you gave him to lend you 400*l.*, but perhaps his memory failed him. I beg your pardon for writing in matters of this kind. I shall only tell you that Ned Fitzharris is in a very low condition. He has been very serviceable to you.

Sir John Davis is just come to town, and I find by him who it was that informed my Lord Shaftesbury that Levallin was not looked after in three days after notice that he was in the country.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680 Dec. 13. Dublin.—I have yours of the 30th of the last. and 4th and 7th of this month. The last was under my Lord of Longford's cover, and so was one directed to his lady, which I suppose gives an account of his coming away the next day. I know not what can be meant by my sending Sir George Lane to a meeting of the Irish clergy and sitting with them, but sure I am there could be nothing like it this thirty year. All that is yet come to me of discoveries and fears in Munster you will find in the copies of examinations and letters herewith inclosed. The Council do not think that matter driven far enough to be transmitted. What this day's letters out of the country may bring us I do not yet know. If anything material comes before the post goes you shall have notice of it, for I write early in the morning, this fit of the gout being, I hope, over. I thought the heat and frequency of alarms in that province had been much abated since my Lord of Orrery's death, but his sister has correspondents here as zealous as he was, but not so inventive. It is painful to live under the apprehensions the wisest and the best men must have about them. The best remedy is submission to God's pleasure, owning His justice, and dependence on His merciful providence. I have long wished for that retirement you would be pleased with for yourself, as much more suitable to my age, but the importunity of friends and their flattery that I might be of use to the public prevailed against my inclination, and now I am found in suspicious times, in an envied and slippery station which I

cannot quit with honour against the command of my Master, nor hold with safety. My Lord of Longford writes of collections preparing to make up articles against me, but if I knew from whom he has this information some guess might be made of the importance of the design.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 14. London.—I did not give your Grace the trouble of any letters the last two posts, having nothing but public news concerning the Lord Stafford's trial, which I presume your Grace received from better hands, I being at that time engaged in a solicitation to preserve myself from the effects of the late order of suspension in Ireland, which remains as yet undetermined, but with your Grace's favour I may have some hopes of it, though I find myself pressed very hard by my Lord of Essex. This day the House of Commons proceeded upon the inquiry into the matter relating to Sir Robert Peyton and have proceeded to expel him the House. They have not yet made any further progress upon Mr. Secretary Jenkins since the vote on Friday, but it at present stands *sine die*, and in the meantime he refrains coming to the House, as Mr. Seymour likewise hath done ever since the articles of impeachment put in against him. I do not yet hear the day of execution of the Lord Stafford is appointed, though there being a motion made this day in the House of Lords for the expediting it, my Lord Chancellor answered there had been some consideration had of that matter already.

One of the Judge's places being vacant in the Court of Common Pleas by the death of Sir William Ellis (it is said) will be supplied by Sir Creswell Levinge, His Majesty's Attorney General, and it is likewise reported (though I believe not with so much certainty) that Mr. Williams, Speaker of the House of Commons, is to be Attorney General in his room.

I have herewith enclosed the Lord Chancellor's speech upon the condemnation of the Lord Stafford, together with yesterday's votes.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 14. London.—I have nothing to say this post more than what you will find in the prints and journals, but that it's believed the House of Commons will proceed no farther against Sir Lyonel Jenkins and that the King has sent orders for us to be in our robes to-morrow. It is not to prorogue the Parliament, but as I am informed it is to mind the Parliament again of the ill posture of his affairs and of the ill condition Tangier is in. I brought Sir John Davys to His Majesty this morning, and he was very gracious to him. My Lord Sunderland is not so easy to be found, but I will watch a proper time. It is thought best he should not bring

the business upon the carpet himself, but be ready if he should be called upon. My Lord Burlington's talking of a letter he had from his brother Shannon about some arms he seized upon, and saying it at the Committee has made a report about the whole town that Ireland is in rebellion.

EARL OF LONGFORD TO ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 14. London.—Though I cannot say I am quite recovered of my cold, yet (I thank God) I am so well of it that I had begun my journey to-morrow had not my Lord Chamberlain desired me last night so to order my journey that I might meet my Lady Ossory on Monday night at Stony Stratford after she has made her visit at Mr. Bennett's, that from her mouth I might be fully instructed to give your Grace an account of the young lady, which my Lord Arlington thinks so necessary a point for your Grace's satisfaction that he easily persuaded me to it.

Since the severe vote of the House of Commons on Friday last against Sir Leollyn Jenkins there has been nothing further done, though the debate of it was adjourned to yesterday, when it passed *sub silentio*, and it is believed there will be nothing further stirred in it. Mr. Sheridan is still a close prisoner and for aught I can find like to be so while the Parliament sits; for since they cannot make him confess the author of the letter and to whom it was written, they will proceed against him as the only criminal in it. They have also his nephew Mr. Wilson in custody (but not in the same House), who confesses the transcript of the letter to be his handwriting, but knows not by whom or to whom it was written.

This day the Commons have expelled Sir Robert Peyton out of the House, and he not attending to receive his sentence at the Bar, they have ordered him to be taken into custody. Col. Vernon tells me that by the last post he had an account from his agent in Dublin that Peter Reade, your Grace's agent, has orders the next term to prosecute in your Grace's name the suit against him for the lands of Ruskoe, which if true seems somewhat hard, your Grace having by my Lord Arran commanded him from Tydberrye hither and diverted him by that means from his journey into Ireland, whither he was going to defend himself against Mr. Butler of Ruscoe. And to my knowledge he has not been an unuseful servant to your Grace in this conjuncture since his being in town; nay, this very morning he had an occasion of rendering your Grace some service amongst some members of the House of Commons, whom he undeceived in a story they were prepossessed with to your Grace's prejudice. Therefore I hope your Grace will have some regard to your old servant, notwithstanding any importunities may be used there to the contrary. Sir John Davys came to town on Saturday, and this morning was presented by my Lord Arran to the King, who received him

very graciously. I have for some time kept Captain Eastland here to accompany me into Ireland, which I hope your Grace will pardon both to him and me. A story of a letter which my Lord Burlington is said to have received out of Ireland has for these two days filled the town with a report that the Irish are in arms in Ireland.

JOHN VESEY, ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM, to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 17. Tuam.—It would be a very great comfort to me and the few Protestants in this desolate part of the country if your Grace were pleased at this time, when men's minds are possessed with I know not what fears of evils which I hope will never come upon them, to order a foot company to quarter in this town. The security of it would be great to the English that are very thinly and insecurely planted, if any danger (which God forbid) should arise in conveying them to the next place of strength; whereas in the posture they now are in they have no place of refuge between the County of Mayo and Galway in case of a sudden storm, and must consequently perish as many did in the beginning of the late rebellion for want of a timely foresight or just provision. Should your Grace's wisdom think fit to consider what is here humbly offered it would much settle the minds of men here and greatly add to the honours your Grace has already done me in making the enjoyments I have here by your Grace's favour more assured and valuable.

SIR JOHN DAVYS to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 18. London.—I did not reach this place until Saturday night last, neither could I rig myself out fit to appear, and to be able to give your Grace an earlier account of my having delivered the recommendatory letters which your Grace honoured me with hither, and which have caused my affairs here to move very prosperously hitherto, for the King received me most graciously upon them; and they did and still do produce extreme civil treatments from his ministers to me, so as I do every day meet with fresh occasions of acknowledging your Grace's favours for me.

I was told by Mr. Gwyn, the clerk of the Council in waiting, that the letter from your Grace and the Board and your Grace's private one to my Lord Sunderland in my favour were read yesterday in Council, and that they gave such full satisfaction concerning me that there was no room for objection, neither was any other made but that I took a very unnecessary journey, which for my part I think was a necessary one if it were to no other end than to have such a solemn declaration made of me, so as I am amply justified there and don't doubt but by the blessing of God to meet with the like success if I should be summoned before the Parlia-

ment, where my Lord Arran (who next your Grace is the kindest person upon earth to me) and all my friends besides do utterly disadvise my officious producing of myself and entering the list with my little adversary until I am called to it by a greater and better authority than their narrative, which as yet is not; and it is questioned, now I am upon the place and having such materials for my defence with me, if it ever will be done, for there has not yet been the least step made towards it since my coming, and therefore all I have now to do in that particular is to be watchful whether any motion happen to be made against me and, lest there should, to endeavour the softening of some seeming hard hearted people, wherein I have already made a considerable progress.

Neither am I alone vigilant as to myself, but careful also to hear what is said concerning your Grace, for evil tongues do now make bold with the greatest as well as with the meanest of men. All worthy and honest persons I meet with do speak with great honour of your Grace's person, and with great certainty of your Grace's loyalty to the King and sincerity to the Protestant religion and look upon both to be abundantly safe under your Grace's administration, and for those who are differently qualified and evilly inclined as to your Grace, and ready enough to speak, I cannot learn any material things they have to put against your Grace. That which I hear they place the greatest weight upon is the business of Levallin, and your Grace not issuing earlier orders for apprehending of him, and this is mentioned here in the very words that worthy Councillor did use who refused to sign the narrative, so as this arrow did most assuredly come out of that quiver, which your Grace may please to make your own use of without mentioning me in it, and if your Grace would also please certainly to recollect the time when and the manner how your Grace first had the notice of that business of Lavallin and how soon afterwards orders were issued for taking him, and who of the Council were attending your Grace and advising concerning it (for I'm mistaken if the aforesaid Councillor was not one) and transmit a narrative of all this to my Lord Arran, I humbly conceive it would not be inconvenient, especially since such a stress is put upon that matter; neither would it be inconvenient in my humble opinion if your Grace thought fit as any account is sent to authority here either from your Grace alone or from the Council Board that a copy thereof may be at the same time sent also to my Lord Arran, for I find nothing kept more a secret in certain places here than those accounts whereby people abroad do either see nothing of the proceedings in Ireland or understand nothing of them but by the clandestine misrepresentations of some private and false hands, whereas by the other way of proceeding truth will appear and in the end will no doubt prevail and justify itself, your Grace and all the rest of its followers.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1800, Dec. 18. London.—I had on Wednesday last your Grace's letter of the 6th, with a printed order for all the officers of the Irish army to repair to their commands under a severe penalty. I hope peers are excepted, though the order is not clear in that point. I have got Mr. Ellis to acquaint all the officers that are in town of your commands in that matter, and he has writ to those who are out of town, and Sir Cyril Wyche has writ to Col. Butler, whom I find the King much concerned for, but not so much as to give him any more licences to stay from his command, but would have him have leave to sell. If that which I have propounded in behalf of Captain Hayes by Lord Longford is not approved of by your Grace, I desire he may sell to Mr. Foord. Vere Cromwell is ill of the scattick, and Captain Gilbert Talbot of an ague, of which they will have certificates.

As to the business of the bailiwick of Westminster, whatever Sir James may have writ I am sure he told me both that place and yours of High Steward were forfeited if proof could be made that money was paid, and the thing is true. The matter now stands thus. Mr. Ellis has paid or has secured to pay Stroud 1,000*l.* and is to pay Sir William Boreman for your use the 500*l.* due to you from Stroud and Stroud's bond is given up.

My Lord Longford will tell your Grace at large what was done this day in our House concerning my Lord Stafford.

HENRY COVENTRY to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 18. Piccadilly.—I have been so long under an indisposition that I have not been able to pay my accustomed duty to your Grace; neither indeed had I anything that I could take any delight in writing, or you in hearing. My letters have been for some years a little melancholy, but should I write you my mind now they would be desperate. The Government seemeth in a kind of derout; neither can I see how it can well rally again, nor guess what use those that have done it will make of it. The ways to disorder are much easier than to settlement. This nation hath once found it, and I pray God it do not so again. My Lord Longford will give your Grace ample detail of what passeth here both in relation to the public and your private concerns, and when he hath done it I believe you will think my conceptions proceed not barely from the spleen, but I will detain your Grace no longer with my thoughts that have nothing but melancholy, not being able in this mist so much as to see my way, much less make it.

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 18. London.—My Lord Chamberlain understanding by Mr. Mulys that my Lady Ossory did not intend to set out from Knowsley till Tuesday last, by which

means she cannot be at Northampton till Monday and consequently cannot call at Mr. Bennett's till Tuesday, when I design to meet her at Stony Stratford and from thence shall hasten to the waterside. My Lord Chamberlain desired me to stay here till Monday, thinking it will be much for your Grace's satisfaction to have a full account of that affair.

This day my Lord Carlisle acquainted the House of Lords that my Lord Stafford begged the favour of their Lordships that he might be once more admitted into their presence to acquaint their Lordships with all that he knew relating to the Plot. Upon which their Lordships sent my Lord Carlisle to fetch him and to tell him beforehand that if he made a full and ingenuous discovery of the Plot they would intercede with His Majesty for his pardon, but if he trifled with them in not making a material discovery they would be so far from interceding for him that they would make it their request to the King that the sentence should be executed upon him with the utmost rigour and severity. His Lordship being brought to the House and called in, he did with tears acknowledge he was guilty of a great crime in endeavouring to overthrow the government of the Church as it was established by law, and in order to it had waited upon the King at Breda before his restoration to solicit him for indulgence to the Catholics; that he had often repeated his solicitations in that particular very frequently since his restoration, and that to incline His Majesty to it he had two years after his restoration laboured to persuade the Papists to raise amongst themselves 100,000*l.* by way of present to His Majesty, which not succeeding by reason of their unwillingness to part with money he was forced to desist; that sometime after the Catholics had a meeting at my Lord of Bristol's house in order to the obtaining from His Majesty a relaxation of the penal laws and had entered into an oath of secrecy, with which he being after dissatisfied came the next day to my Lord Bristol, acquainted him with the dissatisfaction he had to their method of proceeding, and told him he would not be obliged by that oath they had taken, and therefore renounced it. That a little before the late Long Parliament (as it is now styled) was dissolved my Lord Shaftesbury came to him and pressed him to persuade the Duke to effect the dissolution of that Parliament, by which means a Parliament of another genius would probably be chosen who would grant indulgence to Dissenters, and then the Papists might hope for their share of it. Upon this my Lord Shaftesbury moved my Lord Stafford might withdraw, which being done his Lordship told the House that it was evident my Lord Stafford trifled with their Lordships, for instead of making a discovery he justified his own innocency and abused their Lordships, therefore he moved their Lordships would hear him no more, but that he might be carried back to the Tower, which was ordered accordingly.

This day the House of Commons took His Majesty's speech into consideration, and after two hours resolved to supply His Majesty for the support of Tangier, for the setting out his fleet, and for the maintenance of his alliances abroad, upon condition that His Majesty would consent to the cutting off the Duke from the succession to the Crown, that a Bill of Association might pass, and that a Bill might pass for having frequent Parliaments, and this was referred to a Committee to be drawn up into an address to be presented to His Majesty. The Parliament will not meddle with our Irish affairs till after Christmas.

SIR L JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 18. Whitehall.—Mr. Secretary Davys delivered me the letter that your Grace did me the great honour to write to me by him. I should be intolerably vain if I should think myself, especially in the circumstances I am in at this time, capable to render him any service. I cannot imagine he will want any, his case is so clear, and his testimonials so strong. However, I shall not be wanting to the utmost of my power; a common calamity as well as his own worth obliging me to it. This day seems to me a critical day in the House of Commons, for they were upon the speech they had lately made to them by His Majesty. I think there is no more upon their books but a vote for an address to His Majesty in answer to his speech, which is to be prepared by a committee upon the debate of the House. The debate ran:—

1. For the Bill of Exclusion and that it do pass the Royal Assent before other things be taken into consideration.

2. For an Act of Association, without which the other (they say) will be of no effect.

3. The purging and regulating of Westminster Hall and that the Judges have their places, *quamdiu se bene gesserint*.

4. For the regulating of Lords Lieutenants and Deputy Lieutenants, where the Marquess of Worcester was personally named as having too great a trust.

5. For regulating and restoring the Justices of Peace.

6. For putting the Navy into such hands as may be trusted.

7. For taking away standing forces, and inland garrisons, and then they will give money as the necessity of Tanger and the fleet shall require, and if it shall appear upon enquiry that our alliances prove to be useful for the perservation of the Protestant religion and the interest of this Crown, they will encourage such alliances.

Thus your Grace, my Lord, sees what the King is to trust to. I beseech God to direct and preserve him.

SIR HANS HAMILTON to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 18.—About a fortnight ago one Owen Murphy brought me an order from your Grace and the Council requiring all officers, civil and military, to be aiding and assisting

to the said Murphy in apprehending and sending to Dublin all such persons as the said Murphy should think fit to apprehend in order to the discovery of the Popish Plot in Ireland. Having perused the order, he desired my warrant for apprehending all such, and also an order to the several officers and soldiers who are in this country appointed to prosecute the Tories to be aiding and assisting to him in the said service. In your Grace and Council's order was recited an order or letter from the House of Lords in England for giving the said Murphy all assistance, which made me the more cautious how to act in so general a warrant, for by it he might apprehend all persons in the country against whom he had any prejudice as well as those concerned in the discovery of the Plot; but I got him to give me a list of such as he desired to apprehend, being about sixteen in all. He left one McGennis to execute the warrant I gave him, who since brought me several of them, and at his desire I have bound them over to appear in a short time before the Lord Chief Justice in Dublin. I thought it my duty to acquaint your Grace with this lest a clamour might come to your Grace's ears of so many being apprehended by my warrant, and perhaps little to be said to them or by them in reference to the Plot or aught else. As I was writing this to your Grace these inclosed came to me, which I trouble your Grace with; if under pretence of discovering the Plot such bloody murderers shall be pardoned, it will be good encouragement for others to turn Tories. These letters* were found in the hands of Redmond O'Hanlon's mother-in-law by one Mullan, who I employed to prosecute the Tories; and having apprehended some of Redmond's receivers in whose hands they found goods robbed from some travellers on the road the said woman was in one of their houses, and seeing Mullan come in she went to hide these letters; he believing it to be money went to her and took them from her; the letters and the receivers he brought to me, but not the woman, and now your Grace sees that a small sum of money of monies given to the son-in-law (for so it is probable to be) will prevail with that B. to procure pardon for so bloody murderers as these are known to be by one means or other.

Copy.

REV. JAMES CALLAGHAN to HENRY GARDNER.

1680, Dec. 18. London.—You may understand that I and the rest of my company are very well, hoping that you are likewise and all the rest of our well-wishers. As for Papists, it was enacted and established by both the Houses of the Lords and Commons that no Papists or suspected may live in the cities of London and Westminster Hall or within twenty miles of the same. My Lord Stafford, who has been a great peer of this realm, is to be executed next Monday for

* See pp. 535, 536 *infra*.

being impeached to have a hand in the plot against His Majesty. There is several other great Lords in the Tower who are like to suffer also, for there are several evidences ready to swear positively against them. Your friend Sir John Davys, who was Secretary of State in Dublin, is here in custody and is impeached with high treason. Moreover inform my loving friend Mr. Denis Raverty that his worthy friend, Oliver Plunkett, Primate and Metropolitan of all Ireland heretofore so titulated, is upon the Newgate of London to his great woe, and let Mr. Denis be sure not to fear any suborned evidence against the next Assizes of Ardmagh, for there are as many priests, friars and other chief members of the laity out of Munster, Leinster, Connaught, Italy, England and other parts as might hang him and a thousand more if they had been as much concerned as he is. As for our part, notwithstanding our great report in Ireland is nothing in comparison to the rest of his adversaries. Pray be sure to assist my cousin Edmond concerning the business that you know of, and let me understand that you shall be careful of himself and pray do not neglect to forward him the way that you know yourself, which I know you may very well do (and God willing) there is no kindness that you shall shew him, or any other of my friends, but shall be requited ere it be long, if I be a living man; and let my cousin Edmond send to Neale Callaghan who was in trouble concerning the Tories, when I came out of Ireland, and if he or any other of my friends be in any such trouble, let them come to you that you may send me an account of all their businesses, and be sure to direct your letters to Mr. Jones' coffee-house near the Royal Exchange. As for your rent doubt it not, and let my cousin Thomas McDonnell and my curate pay you whatever is behind of the old debt, and if you or my cousin Edmond can have tenants to plough the land now, let them not fear the rent, for if I did continue here in London I might discharge them of all troubles whatsoever, and much more I trust in Jesus Christ that they shall see me in those parts with a merry meeting towards Candlemas next. Pray be pleased to inform Sir Toby Poyntz that I have not forgotten his request of me the time we were together, and let him understand that I did not rest until I got it done to his own desire, and if any of my friends shall occasion for him, let him use them as his accustomed favour was towards myself always. The most part of the gentry of the west parts of Ireland is impeached with the Plot, but none out of the north; as for Red. Laughlin and Ed. Kane their protection is ready drawn, signed and sealed without the least impediment, only expecting some moneys to bear their charges, though with much ado, yet let me beg of you as a trusty friend to keep this very private, until it shall be publicly known unto all others, not only this but several things I did expect to inform you with, but that I am called immediately before King and Parliament. There-

fore I trust all to your own discretion until further liberty, only remembering my dutiful respects to yourself, to all my well wishers and especially to my most noble and worthy parishioners in general. My boy Terence Kelly desires to be remembered to his mother, to his brother, sisters, and all the rest of his friends, and I thank God he is in a better condition now than he was when he parted with them last, for he wants for neither clothes or meat, and has as many books of both English and Latin as he can make use of, studying both day and night in his chamber, but when I am abroad myself then of necessity he must wait upon me, and they shall see him shortly in a better condition than they expected.

Endorsed :—To Henry Gardner, Innkeeper at Newry.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 18. Dublin.—By yours of the 11th I find you had seen Sir John Davys. By this time I suppose you have produced him and he has acquainted you with all he carries with him in paper or in memory. We have since had additional informations taken in the county of Limerick, which seem to corroborate Mr. David Fitzgerald's first information and to make good David Nash his information in spite of his and Lynes retractions and criminations. These new witnesses applied themselves to Captain Odell, who took to his assistance two other Justices of Peace to prevent his being again calumniated for a suborner. His letter to me and the informations he sent with it of Maurice Fitzgerald and Murtagh Dowling are transcribing to be sent to my Lord Sunderland and the two informers are sent for according to their desire. The name of the latter I may mistake, the information not being by me, but, I think, I am near the sound of it. If any notice be sent of this matter and noise made of it before we can send them, this may serve for an account of it as it yet stands. Orders are sent by this night's post to commit eight gentlemen to safe custody and to take bonds of four or five more in the country of Limerick, against which latter the evidence is not so full as against the others. If these eight shall be sent for into England, as the Lord Brittas, Sir John Fitzgerald, Lacy and Brady have been and must go to London on the charge of this revenue, it will be a great burden to it and therefore it may be fit again to mind the King of our former desire that we may be no further charged with sending prisoners than to Chester, for I can see no end of informers, and such as must be taken into custody upon informations. The Lord Brittas is not yet to be found. His fellows are much troubled at his evasion, supposing it may prove an argument of their guilt.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 21. London.—I had yesterday your Grace's of the 13th, but have none of the enclosed papers you mention, but the matter, is not great for the last alarm out of Munster

is grown cool again. I am glad to hear you are in hopes this fit of the gout is over, the exercise your Grace used in the summer has without doubt lessened your fit ; there is an oil to be bought of one that was a servant to Sir Philip Howard which my Lord Suffolk and Lord Shaftesbury commend as a very sovereign thing, both when the gout is upon one and for strengthening the part after the fit is over. I know not whether my Lord Longford has remembered to carry any with him. His Lordship went away early this morning. He will show your Grace some of the heads intended to be put in against you, and your answers to them will come soon enough, for I believe you will not be meddled with, if at all, until Christmas be over, but I believe I can myself answer all the particulars I have yet seen or heard of, if I may affirm Sir George Lane never met with the Popish clergy by your order or approbation since His Majesty's restoration. I have it from two persons severally that the parties who were active in this are Mr. Hayes, Mr. Roberts and one Morley, whom you have had often before you at the Board, and I believe Sir James Shaen, though my informers deny his having any hand in the matter, they being his friends. I forgot in the two or three last letters to assure you of the certainty of Fitzpatrick's having a command at Tangier. My Lord Inchiquin made him an ensign in his regiment before his Lordship's leaving Tangier. Mr. Buck died this morning.

Your Grace will find by the last address from the House of Commons that within a short time we shall know how matters must go.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 21.—Your next will inform us to what purpose robes were put on as yours of the 14th mentioned. Geoghegan, one of the discoverers sent over with ample recommendation from the Council, has carried himself so extravagantly and insolently that it was yesterday resolved at Council he should be stopped in his career and brought hither to answer the many complaints brought against him. You may be sure they were palpable and enormous when we all agreed they were no longer to be endured. I believe one Owen Murphy sent to provide witnesses against Oliver Plunket, titular Primate, will be found faulty also, but there are yet no complaints of him. In a search made for Tories, their stolen goods and harbourers, by warrant from Sir Hans Hamilton, the originals of the enclosed copies were found, with whom and in what manner will appear to you by the copy of Sir Hans, his letter to me. You may guess who the Lord in England is that is depended on to get the pardon of Hanlon and his accomplices, and it appears upon what terms. If you find a fit opportunity it may be fit to show them to the King who can best judge what use may be made of the originals and when ; in the meantime they shall be safely

kept. I know not whether it may be safe to say it, but it is a truth that there seems to be as great a disposition to quietness in this kingdom as ever I observed. Here and in other parts parts of the kingdom I find that arms are brought in very fast upon the proclamation, and some who had leave to have arms but never had any, or not so many as they had leave for, are constrained to buy them and bring them in. I know not of so much ground for the report of this kingdom being in rebellion as the taking of any arms in Munster. Informations upon oath indeed there are of some powder and swords said to be lodged in a house and thence conveyed to O'Sullivan More's who was easily and quietly apprehended and is in custody at Cork to give an account of himself and, what is laid to his charge, tho' the taking of him was represented hither as a service of difficulty and danger. When a man of so great dependance living in a wild mountainous country, and not restored to his estate, is so easily brought in as he and O'Sullivan Bere's eldest son (who is in all circumstances like the other) have been, I know not who else is able to stand out; evade they may as divers have done in England and the Lord Brittas here. Whoever thinks it necessary for the good of England that Ireland should be made and kept poor may wish for a rebellion here, there being nothing but a war that can do it. I can tell who maintained that maxim in the politics, and possibly, so it were done, cares not how many Protestants may be destroyed by it. Neither the order of the House of Lords here or ours here did give so large authority to Owen Murphy as Sir Hans apprehended. [Encloses the two following letters.]

DEBORAH ANNESLEY to MRS. KATHERINE O'HANLON.

1680, Dec. 7.—I am extremely troubled that I cannot give Mr. O'Hanlon no better account of what I was assured to prosper in. My Lord Lieutenant was overruled by the Council, who would not hear of his coming in, but has put 200*l.* on Redman [Redmond] O'Hanlon and 100*l.* on Loling, so that all the arguments could be used by my father could do no good; the proclamation will be out on Saturday against them, but my father is finding out a way in England for all those poor men, of which you shall know more from Mr. Annesley; because letters are opened I can say no more of that, but that way without doubt will secure them and bring them in, of which I desire you to send away immediately to Mr. Annesley who will inform you, and desire to hear from you concerning it and let them know that no means shall be left unsought to do them good, for my father will have them in, and let them not take it ill, for I could do no more if it had been for my own life. I shall stay here till I hear from you concerning what I wrote about them to Mr. Annesley. and no stone shall be left unturned to bring them in, which I question not but we shall find all will be well concerning them.

There is nothing set on Edmond Ban and Hagan.

FRANCIS ANNESLEY to MRS. KATHERINE O'HANLON.

1680, Dec. 9. Clough.—Mrs. Hanlon, I was directed from above to give you this account, that affairs in relation to your friends are in a worse condition than was expected. There is 200*l.* set on the head of one, and a hundred pounds as the price of the other, and a pardon had certainly been obtained for them if in so enormous a case it could have been done without violence to justice. I can tell you (if you come over to me, and possibly it may be worth your while) where the shoe pinches. I have only this to add (for it is not convenient to write my thoughts to you), and I beg your speedy answer to it, that I may return it to my Lord Bishop of Meath,* who will acquaint the Council with their resolution in these two points:—

1. Whether Redman O'Hanlon will be a discoverer of the design for the French invasion here, and who in Ireland are the principal abettors; if he doth this he need not doubt of countenance, pardon and reward also for himself and his two brothers.

2. If he will be at the charge of procuring and passing his own and his brothers with Neill O'Hagan's pardon in England: if so my Lord Bishop of Meath will draw up the petition for them and send it to a sure and honourable hand that will get it done without control. I also will improve my interest with the Earl of Anglesey and other friends there for their advantage.

This I do that they may know their condition here and what is purposed to be done in England for them by my assistance and kindness; and the consideration of the misery they are in, and the inclination they ought to have to their own interest should prevail with them above all other advice how preferable is a quiet and peaceable life to that which you now lead. Therefore you should resolve to become honest men, and prove firm to the King's interests, and never deviate again from their obedience to the King if you can obtain once more his gracious pardon, which I question not may yet be obtained, though new difficulties are started.

Endorsed.—For Mrs. Katherine O'Hanlon, These

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF T. SAVAGE.

1680, Dec. 24. Dingle.—On the first of this instant parted from Bilbao, in Spain, the ship called *Daniel* of Garcia, now in this harbour laden with fruit, Peter Bally, master, who affirms that the current news in that place was that from Algiers there were ready to set sail thirty Turks men-of-war for the coast of England and Ireland, and that he was much advised to make all the despatch he could for the same reasons; he further saith that the post brought constant news that the plague was very rife at Algiers; he saw the comet nine days ago very plain at sea; these things, pray, if you think fit, communicate to his Grace.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Christmas Day. London.—Tho' the Lords adjourned on Thursday last to the 3rd of next month and acquainted the Commons with their intentions, yet they sat yesterday, and in the afternoon Sampson, Morley, Murphy, Moyer, Macnamara, Burke, and Eustace Comyn petitioned the House against Sir John Davys. The House heard only Sampson and Murphy, whom they could not understand. The former was very sharp upon Sir John, and did not spare my Lord Chancellor. The whole matter is referred to the Committee of Examinations, of which Col. Birch is chairman. I believe they have introduced this accusation only to usher in one against you. I have so laid out that I am confident I shall have a copy of the articles designed against you, and Kennedy is like to get them, for my Lord Barkley, who is his Gideon, has engaged him, and he is ready to swear that he was offered money to be a witness against you, but refused it.

My Lord Conway professes great kindness for you, and is very friendly to me upon all occasions, but he has desired a thing (and I find he sets much stress upon it) which you formerly refused my Lord Granard and me, and that is that Sir George Royden should part with his troop to his son, who, my Lord Conway says, is a very vigorous lusty young man. The denial will very much dissatisfy him, and it is not prudent at this time to lose him. He thinks he could be sure of the King's letter on his behalf, but will not seek for that out of respect to you. He desires me to tell you also that Landy Bolton goes in the next stage coach and hopes you will be favourable to him at his arrival. Cap. Gilbert Talbot is sick of an ague and has been so this great while, as your Grace may see by his physician's certificate. I have just now received your Grace's letter of the 18th and a paper from Mr. Gascoigne, about one Geoghegan, but I have not time to read it nor to go to Court and give you an account afterwards what His Majesty's answer will be about the prisoners you send over, but His Majesty I am sure will take them off your hands at Chester, for I spoke to him about two or three days ago, and he said he would give order in it.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680, Dec. 28. London.—I had last night your Grace's letter of the 21st instant and the enclosed copies of the Bishop of Meath's letter, etc., and I hear the informations mentioned in yours of the 18th are come to my Lord Sunderland's hands, but I am never the wiser for I shall not see them; therefore it were well that duplicates were made and one copy sent over either to Sir John Davys or me, but his head is so full now of his own business that he cannot mind the public's. The Committee were to sit upon him this day. The papers you sent me were too long for His Majesty to

peruse, but I read your letter to him this morning and he was very well pleased with it. I told him also what was contained in the other papers, but he was so much troubled with other business, that he gave no advice in the matter. You will do very well in my opinion to keep the originals safe until use may with prudence be made of them; I think the time not proper yet. I attended all yesterday morning whilst the Council was sitting, in hopes to have got some order about taking the prisoners off your hands at Chester, but they had, it seems, business of greater moment. By Saturday's post I hope it will done.

I find the Irish witnesses do not agree amongst themselves, for they say Hethrington has cheated them of the allowance the King has given him for them, and Mr. David Fitzgerald broke Sampson's head the other day, of which he complained to the House of Commons, but they thought Fitzgerald in the right, he having given Fitzgerald ill language before.

If you have not very enormous things against Geoghegan, you have done a very bold action as the world now goes, for the little great man said not long since at the committee that he thought in his conscience Eustace Comyn was an honest witness; but since you have done it I shall be bold to give the history of his life to some members when you send over the second part, which will contain what his transactions have been since his last journey thither. I leave Sir John himself to give an account of what is done with him. I wish his overmuch concern may do him no hurt at the Committee. I am sure all people without doors to whom he has told his story are very well satisfied with the account he gives in his justification. I have not hitherto interposed in a business you have been transacting, which is of so great concern that I can hold my tongue no longer, and that is the marrying your grandchild. For the friendship I have to my Lord Chamberlain, you being so far engaged before I knew anything of the matter I could not but approve of it and discourse with him in the matter, though I never liked it, and much less the going a-begging for a rich match, tho' of mean education, for it seems the mother flatly refused to let her daughter see my sister Ossory upon the road. You have a good opportunity to take the matter high, and upon that usage to break off the match. I am sure my sister Cavendish is of the same opinion with me, but you know best what is fit to be done. Betty Stanhope is just now come to me, and desires to have her duty presented to you.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 29. Dublin.—I have yours of the 18th and 21st of this month, and shall have all that my Lord Longford can show or say in a few days, if the wind holds as it is, and if he has made no long stay by the way. In a former letter,

I have assured you, that Sir George Lane was never with any congregation, or convocation, or any other meeting of Popish clergy from me, since the King came in ; nor, I think, ever in his life. The meeting that I am charged with, and all the transactions at it, are at large set down in a great book set forth by Peter Walsh. My aim was to work a division among the Romish clergy, and I believe I had compassed it, to the great security of the Government and Protestants, and against the opposition of the Pope and his creatures and Nuncios, if I had not been removed from the Government, and if direct contrary counsels and courses had not been taken and held by my successors, of which some were too indulgent to the whole body of Papists, and others not much acquainted with either of them, nor considering the advantage of the division designed. I confess I have never read over Walsh's book, which is full of a sort of learning I have been little conversant in ; but the doctrine is such as would cost him his life, if he could be found where the Pope has power.

I cannot find any entry of the orders that were sent for the taking of Lavallin, whose escape would seem to be imputed to my negligence. But I remember well that the first and only notice I had of such a man's being charged with being one of the ruffians was in a printed diurnal, and that having heard of Captain Lavallin's dissolute course of life, and of a base and treacherous action of his in Holland, I suspected he might be the man ; and thereupon the orders for his apprehension were sent to persons and places most like to have it done. It is said this was not done time enough ; but if it had not been done at all the omission would not have been very criminal ; considering that there are many Lavallins besides him now taken for the man, and that I had no intimation where to look for him or any other of the four, though three of them are Irishmen. Besides, I find in the late journals that somebody at Bristol is accused of helping them all away, so that either he must be wronged, or else Lavallin made not his escape from hence. But without doubt he went out of this kingdom, and the Bristol man is not guilty of the escape of all of them. Having leisure enough I thought it not amiss to say thus much in those two points.

You have already sent you a part of Mr. Geoghegan's life and achievements till he left Ireland, and was re-converted by the Bishop of Durham under the name of Dalton. His exploits, since he came over with authority from the Council to take plotters, are many and remarkable, and shall be sent to my Lord Sunderland as soon as the story is completed to his committal to Newgate, where he now is. But since he came over armed with such authority, upon such an employment, his commitment to Newgate may be misinterpreted, I send you authentic copies of so many examinations as have yet been taken concerning the abuse of the authority he had

from the Council in England, and pursuant to it, from us here ; which will satisfy anybody that it was not fit to let him go on to plunder, beat, and imprison who he pleased, English and Irish, Papist and Protestant, as his fancy, supported by strong ale and wine, should direct him.

Here is also one Owen Murphy, authorised to search for and carry over witnesses, I suppose, to give evidence against Ol. Plunket. He carries himself with much more modesty ; but he has been as far as the county of Tipperary, and brought thence about a dozen people, not like to say anything material as to Plunket ; so that I believe he takes them upon account of Eustace Comyn's mad narrative. Perhaps before the letters go away I shall say more of him, or Mat. Barry shall, to Sir John Davys, to whom I pray make my excuse for not making any other return than this to his letter of the 18th.

I know not what may become of Tangier or the troops there, so that I am not willing to give Fitzpatrick's certain place till we see the issue. The poor youth was shot through the body and may be dead.

How could anybody imagine Lords in Parliament could be meant in the proclamation calling officers to their duty ? If all the officers of the army were of the House of Commons I hope I have more wit than to call them from that service.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680, Dec. 31. Dublin.—I have yours of Christmas Day and we hope before night my Lord Longford will be landed. If he was at sea last night he had a rough passage. I think by this time Sir John Davys believes his journey well undertaken. I cannot conceive how the petition of those fellows should be an introduction to a complaint against me otherwise than as it brings the affairs of Ireland in play, for they have hitherto made no reflecting mention of me. I do not believe Kennedy refused money to accuse me or any man. He is a notorious thief and liar, so that no belief is to be given to anything he shall say or swear any further than there shall be some other concurring testimony or pregnant circumstance. I had the heads of an accusation sent me, whereof a copy goes with this that you may compare them with any that shall be brought you. I offered Sir George Rawdon by my Lord Granard that he might have 400 guineas for his troop, but his return was that having received that command from the King he was desirous to die with it, but if he thinks he can make more of it I shall refuse no fit man to whom he will resign it ; but if my Lord Conway wishes rather that he should resign it to his Lordship's nephew I will comply with it upon notice from Sir George. It will be a mighty ease to us to have all such as shall be sent for taken at Chester.

EUSTACE COMYN to RICHARD DENISON at Clonmel.

1680-1, Jan. 1st. London.—I must beg of you that you will certify that I was refused a warrant to take John Brenan, titular Bishop of Cashel; Oliver Plunkett, Primate of Armagh, and Robert Power, pretended Deacon of Waterford, in your own house in Clonmel by Robert Lowe and Charles Alcock, in the presence of Mr. Stephen Moore and others, and what you can certify besides for the public good in order for the further detection of the plot I desire you send me by the next post and direct it to me to the Earl of Shaftesbury's in Aldergate Street, otherwise I must summon you hither as a witness.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 1st. London.—I suppose Sir John Davies will give your Grace a more perfect account of the proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the allegations of Sampson and the rest of the witnesses against him than I am able to do, but I find upon the whole matter they seem resolved on these two points, to vindicate the reputation of the witnesses and receive nothing that shall contradict them, and to throw all the dirt they can gather together upon the Government of Ireland. On the last Council day my Lord Sunderland brought to the Board four letters from your Grace and Council of Ireland; those letters which related to the examinations were ordered together with the examinations to be transmitted to the Committee of Examinations of the House of Lords.

On Sunday last there happened some angry discourse between my Lord Chamberlain and Mr. Hyde upon the occasion of the King's receiving and returning no New Year's gifts this year as formerly, and it grew to such a degree that Mr. Hyde the last Council day complained of it to the King in Council. They were both thereupon ordered to withdraw, and after some time called in again, at which time His Majesty acquainted my Lord Chamberlain that what Mr. Hyde had done in that matter was by his order, and therefore he ought not to have given him that occasion of complaint.

The town hath lately been very full of some proposals made in private to His Majesty to explain more particularly the last paragraph of the House of Commons' address concerning the certain sum of money that some of the leading men of the House of Commons would undertake should be given in case the Duke's Bill should be passed and some of themselves put into employments which they desired, and it is said that His Majesty being expected at the Lord St. Albans' lodging on Monday night last at supper, Mr. Ralph Montague and Mr. Will. Herbert came thither with intention to have met the King, but His Majesty came not thither that night. This discourse occasioned the vote of the House of Commons on Friday that no member of that House should

receive anything from the King without leave of the House, and that those who did contrary should be expelled the House. It is said that my Lord Chief Justice Scroggs hath lately surrendered his employment, but I do not know the certainty of it.

SIR JOHN DAVYS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 1st.—I am at last brought upon the stage or rather to the stake by the Irish witnesses' petition against me to the House of Commons, which was referred to a Committee where I have been baited for six or seven hours a day these two days last past, committee men and evidences, even Eustace Comyn himself, saying what they listed to me. At last, being demanded immediately to answer, I observed that the examinations against me were diverse, the things charged upon me in them various, the times they were laid in several, and those times far distant, that I was not conscious of any occasion ever given by me for them, so as they were the more surprising upon me, and therefore for the Committee's easier and my certainer method I desired I might be allowed a copy of my full charge and competent time allowed me to put in my answer to it; which being debated among them they at last resolved on this only, that they will upon Monday acquaint the House with my motion, and according to their sense govern themselves in it. Upon the whole matter, considering what sort of committee it is, Col. Birch in the chair, who took occasion in private among them, as I heard, to compare your Grace and me to the Lord Strafford and Sir George Ratcliff; and after what manner they used me, only admitting me to speak when the witnesses would give way to it, and not only suffering them to say what they pleased as they saw occasion by way of invention and addition to their examinations before given in, but leading them and encouraging them to it, and to criminate at their wills your Grace and the whole body of the Government in Ireland as well as me, and all this in the hearing of crowds of people of all sorts that thought fit to come, the doors being laid open for that purpose, I expect little better but that my request will be rejected and the Chairman report *ex parte* against me, and thereupon an impeachment to the Lords, where I confess I had rather be, and where my materials for my justification, I don't question, will be regarded, which in the place I am at present I find would be looked upon but as trash, everything there offered against what the evidences say proving to be no more; and therefore I yet reserve from being blown upon what I have for myself, even the Bishop of Meath's certificate also, until a proper opportunity for producing them. Thus your Grace sees in what a position I am, being here in the hands of false witnesses and the mighty encouragers of them, from whom, Good Lord, deliver me. Edmond Murphy, the priest, took occasion at the Committee

to affirm that when he appeared before your Grace against the Tories he was well used, but when he discovered the plot he was ill treated by your Grace and other reflections of that kind were placed by him and others of the witnesses, from whose hands I am confident mischief is intended your Grace by as wicked but higher people. God preserve your Grace from them, which shall be my daily prayer.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, New Year's Day. London.—Yesterday morning the Council sat and turned out the clerks. What the business was I have not yet learnt, but I suppose it was about an answer to the House of Commons' last address, for His Majesty is to speak to both Houses on Monday.

I have at last got a copy of some of the articles drawn up against you. It is likely they will be mended before they are made use of. I copied them because the hand they were written in might be known if intercepted to the prejudice of the person. Your Grace will easily judge by some of the articles who were the persons that furnished the materials as in 16th article, 20th and 22nd.

Major Hallkett, Toby Purcell and several other officers are come hither from Tangier. They tell me that Fitzpatrick is dead of his wounds. The King told me yesterday that he intended to send home again that part of the forces there that belong to Ireland. Sir John Davys has been twice before the Committee, who, I suppose, will give your Grace an account of their proceedings with him.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Jan. 1. Dublin.—Since mine of yesterday, which I think is not yet gone, I have seen from a better hand than Kennedy's another article that is said to be prepared against me, and that it will be sworn. The article is that I have been seen to receive the sacrament the Romish way at my sister Clancarty's. Now though it may be as truly sworn that I was circumcised at Christ Church, and that few of any brains that know me or have but a superficial account of my life will give credit to so incredible a forgery; yet if it get into a narrative thousands will swallow it as truth; and against this there is no fence. The credulous that trust in prints will never hear or consider, whether it be material or no, that I could have as many masses and sacraments as I had a mind to brought me, and more secretly, into my lodging, than to go anywhere abroad for them; that the laity never have the sacrament given them (unless they are sick) but at Mass; that Masses are never said but in the morning; and I defy anybody to prove that ever I was to see my sister this twenty years but in an afternoon. Above all, let Mr. Oates his depositions be examined, and it will clearly appear that it was designed by the conspirators that I should be killed;

and sure if I had been a Papist it would have been known to them ; and as sure it is that they would not have contrived the death of one that might in such case have been useful to them. I have caused Oates his depositions to that point to be extracted out of a reprinted copy here, which it may be fit for you to have by you. It is not in the same volume of that printed in England, and therefore the directions to pages and sections will not serve.

SAME to SAME.

1680-1, Jan. 3. Dublin.—My Lord of Longford and yours of the 28th of the last arrived here yesterday, but both what you write and what he says leave us under the uncertainty we were and are like for some time to continue in. It is true that the sending of duplicates of what went hence to my Lord Sunderland in confirmation of David Fitzgerald's discovery was omitted. It shall be now supplied, and that course constantly held for the time to come. I am obliged to my Lord Burlington for advice he gives me in a letter of his to my Lord Primate, tho' the matter of fact be mistaken, for my Lord Brittas was not bailed by me but by the Judges, and if he appears at the next Assizes he saves his bail, tho' by evading till then he makes his guilt more probable. Against O'Sullivan More there is not one witness yet appearing, nor was there any order from hence to take bail of him or of O'Sullivan Bere when my Lord's letter was written, nor I think is yet ; so that his information, I mean my Lord Burlington's, is not authentic from whomsoever he had it. The originals of the copies I sent you shall be safely kept, and I am promised more of the kind the next week. You will have a copy of my letter to my Lord Chamberlain, which I mean should import that I give over any further thought of the proposition concerning his kinswoman.

EARL OF ARBAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 4. London.—The Committee have made no report yet in Sir John Davys his business, but it is believed they will make one nothing favourable to him, and that the House will vote an impeachment against him. He was so much concerned at the Committee's proceeding with him when he was last before them that he was disordered to such a degree I was afraid he would do his business much prejudice, but he is better settled now. The deposition of Maurice Fitzgerald and Downy were read this day in our House, and Sir John Fitzgerald and Col. Lacy were before us, and denied what was laid to their charge, but we were so satisfied with what was sworn that we passed a vote that there was and is a dangerous plot in Ireland, as your Grace will see by the journals. Your constant friend there happened to say upon this occasion that Papists were better armed in Ireland than the Protestants, but I cleared that point and satisfied the House to the contrary, which he made no reply to.

Sir Thomas Wharton was but a while ago with us. He desires to be remembered to you and promises his endeavours to justify you whenever he meets with anything said against you. There is one Cornet Colt yet here, but he goes away next week. He has made his brother, who is a leading man in the House of Commons, to be Sir John Davys his friend; therefore he desires if he should outstay his furlough a little that you would be favourable to him.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Jan. 6. Dublin.—Mr. Geoghegan's history is brought so far that we have thought it time to transmit it to my Lord Sunderland, and we hope his villainies will appear to be such as will justify his sending to Newgate. Murphy, sent hither to gather witnesses by virtue of an order of the House of Lords of an old date, is ready to embark with those he has picked up. His authority bore no direction to the Government, nor was any address made to the King, as in other cases, to command me anything in that matter. So I have in no degree interposed; only when Murphy complained of want of money I furnished him by the advice of the Council with fifty pounds. In Hetherington's letter produced by Murphy he was advised to good husbandry; and particularly to take none with him but material witnesses; and yet he has taken some from Carrick that profess here that they are able to say nothing of the plot or plotters. So that I should have saved the charge of ten or twelve persons, and prevented the ruin of so many poor men taken from their trade and labour if they had been any man's tenants but my own. In Hetherington's mention is made of a Popish Bishop, who, as it was supposed, might be prevailed with to make a full discovery of the Plot upon assurance of pardon. Murphy persists to be of the opinion still, and says he has fresh reason to be so. Thereupon I have given a safe conduct to the Bishop, and put it into the hand desired by Murphy. If he comes to me upon it, I make no doubt but that he will make such discoveries as will well deserve a pardon and ample reward; which I will in that case undertake to him for. The safe conduct is given since the Council sat; and so I could not have their concurrence, nor did I think it fit to delay a matter of this moment (if it falls out right) till the next meeting. I have not time to write this day to my Lord Sunderland, but you may let him see this letter.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, January 6. Dublin.—Since my letter to my Lord Chamberlain importing that any further prosecution of any pretence to Mr. Bennet's daughter should be laid aside, Mrs. Brabazon was with my wife and told her that she found by the Duchess of Albemarle that an address in behalf of my grandson for a younger sister of hers would not be displeasing.

I know nothing of the person of the young lady or of any other circumstance considered in such cases, but am abundantly satisfied of the advantage of the alliance in reference to birth and the honour and constant loyalty of the family. Yet in regard to both sides, and that instead of contracting a stricter friendship by an alliance we may not lessen that which is already betwixt us (as it sometimes falls out when a treaty of this kind is entered into and broken off) it were good that some knowledge were had of the fitness of the match as to the persons first and then as to the conditions of marriage, and this I desire you to discourse with the sister of and to make such inquiry as may be proper. I will mix this affair with nothing else.

SIR JOHN DAVYS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 8.—Since my last to your Grace all that passed in the House of Commons concerning me was Colonel Birch's reporting the examinations taken against me and making this disingenuous addition, that I had answered at the Committee, as your Grace will find by the printed votes of Thursday, whereas the last thing that passed there was a desire from me of copies of the examinations and time to answer to them according to the account I formerly gave your Grace thereof, a way of proceeding some of my friends who are members and were at the Committee will, I believe, take notice of and rectify that mistake when the business comes to be debated in the House, which is ordered to be upon Monday, and at the same time some things that Sampson and McNamara gave in the other day to involve my Lord Anglesey in my Lord Tyrone's plot are to be considered also to see whether they will bear an impeachment of treason against him. Sir Robert Clayton and some other vassals of my Lord S., and consequently patrons of my accusers, would endeavour to bring me in for treason also, but I don't in my own opinion and by better judgments at all perceive that the matters against me can warrant any such thing, but if they should run them up to so unreasonable a construction in the lower House I am very confident such is the justice of the Lords, before whom the articles must come at last, they will upon hearing of them be of different minds and proceed accordingly as to me, for they have done the like already, and no later than yesterday, in the case of my Lord Chief Justice Scroggs, impeached before them by the Commons of high treason upon articles of a higher nature than mine can be, which their Lordships declared to be but misdemeanours and therefore have bailed the Chief Justice, and won't as much as give way to his suspension from his employment until they see reason for it after he has received his trial. The other day Mr. David Fitzgerald and Oates being together and holding a discourse concerning me, wherein the former speaking in my favour the latter took occasion to give him very abusive

language and met with a suitable return, which has produced no good effect, as such garboils seldom do. For to-day a gentleman came to me and told me for certain that Oates the last night carried Bernard Dennis (who your Grace may remember came over hither from Ireland with Moyer and the other priests) with him to my Lord Mayor, where Dennis has given in an examination against Fitzgerald and named therein your Grace, my Lord Chancellor and myself, but to what purposes that gentleman could not tell, but he is a-scouting to learn them, and when I hear what they are I will send your Grace an account of them. Just as I am writing this the gentleman is returned to me and tells me that all that examination was that David Fitzgerald should be endeavouring to persuade some of the witnesses not to prosecute me, which he has denied at a Committee. Though none of the printed votes have yet named me under any ill character, my adversaries have notwithstanding written and scattered intelligences as if I had been voted a notorious stifler of the Plot in Ireland, with other wild and false things which no doubt will be dispersed about in Ireland to blacken me; while I am forced to be patient, until by my innocency and the help of friends who are satisfied of it, I can extricate myself out of my unfortunate circumstances; and since I mention friends I crave leave to acquaint your Grace that here is one Mr. Colt, a member of the House, who appears mightily my friend, though otherwise a hot, disobliged and fierce speaking man against the Court, and therefore of good interest with the contrary party. Him his brother, who is cornet to Captain Aungier, has made for me, and by that means altogether of Launty Bolton, whereby I have free access to and such good credit with him and by him with others as I hope it may not be useful alone to me, but to your Grace also, for the effecting whereof I have been the occasion of detaining the Cornet and Launty Bolton longer indeed than they would otherwise have stayed from their colours since your Grace's last proclamation for recalling officers, and therefore I humbly beseech your Grace's pardon to me, in the first place and in the next to them, and that your Grace will be pleased that no inconveniency may light upon them as to their commands or pay for their staying so necessarily here upon my account hitherto. This week they go from hence over.

EARL OF ARRAN TO ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 8. London.—Our House has sat so late this night that I shall not have time to say so much as I intended, but Sir John Davys will write more at large. My Lord Burlington, upon the account of friendship to your Grace desires me to advise you not to let bail be taken for those persons who are accused of the Plot there, tho' but one witness against them, for he is informed the O'Sullivans, who are, as he says, very dangerous people, are out upon bail.

I am commanded by His Majesty to let you know that by the next post you will have orders to send over Maurice Fitzgerald and Murty Dowling, and he will give directions to have the charges borne here from Chester.

The House of Commons have voted as you will see against four Lords and one Commoner, so that it is to be hoped that they will let Ireland alone for a while, and that Sir John Davys will be safe, they having more considerable work of that nature upon their hands than his.

LORD COURCY to DUKE OF ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 8. Kingsweston.—I have been here keeping my Christmas at Sir Robert Southwell's, and we have often joined our hearty prayers and wishes for your Grace, especially considering how many troubles are spoken of. I am sure I have sorrow enough, not only in gratitude to your Grace for the good that is past, but for fear of the evil which may befall me if any change should be made in that kingdom.

I have been now five years at Oxford, which I esteem my great happiness, not only about my religion but other good things, by the care and goodness of my Lord Bishop. But I am often sorry that I cannot study so hard as he and other friends have desired me, which I acknowledge as my fault or unhappiness. I shall be sixteen year old in May, and my wishes are to travel and if it could be when my Lord of Ossory goes, I should think that a most happy occasion, and I should strive to make good in some other things what I fall short in about my studies. After this the next thing I think of is the getting some employment in the army in Ireland : and besides these two ways I cannot tell what to think of for one in my condition. I would be glad, if I could, to begin with the first of these ways, which is travel, but I fling myself upon your Grace for help and advice.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Jan. 9. Dublin.—Sir Joseph Williamson likes this country so well and has so much interest in it by his lady that he resolves to stay here for some time. I know not perfectly how he and his place of secretary were separated, nor consequently how he stands in the King's opinion. But in all his discourse with me he appears to be zealous for his service. So that I am of opinion his being of the Privy Council in this kingdom may be useful. I am sure I should wish it during my being in the Government if it have no objection on that side. If His Majesty think fit to have him sworn the form of a letter requiring it may easily be found.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Jan. 9. Dublin.—I have yours of the 1st with the inclosed abstract, and am of your opinion that they will

be better polished and put into method before they can with credit to the composers be made use of. But though all that is material in them is utterly false and all that is true wholly impertinent, yet as they may be dressed they may serve for an accusation or impeachment, and produce all the preliminary inconveniences from which I know not who can be exempted. If the speech we have here in print was really spoken in the Lords' House as it is printed, and shall pass without any reprehension, or so much as an explanation, I know not why any subject should wonder at anything said of him or to him. It is plain out of whose shop the articles you marked came, and it is visible here that the merchant has still great credit with his partners.

This westerly wind has carried over Murphy with a number of witnesses; and Geoghegan since his imprisonment has accused my Lord Carlingford, Col. Garret Moore, and one Nugent of treason. That the title of the King's evidence may not only defend him from punishment here but help him into England, where he hopes for more favour than here, where he is best known, and to make his presence there the more necessary, he now desires to be examined against the Lord Molyneux. This is evidently his drift, but how safe it may be to find or affirm it to be so I cannot judge. You have duplicates sent you of all that is transmitted to my Lord Sunderland concerning him, Murphy, Fitzgerald and Dowling, which make a large packet. This shall be all of this letter. Copies of two letters sent from the Board to my Lord Sunderland about Ja. Geoghegan and Murphy, dat. 8 Janry., 1680. Four copies of safe conduct, etc., for Tyrrell, titular Bishop of Clogher, to come in and declare what he knows of the Plot at the instance of Owen Murphy.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 10. London.—I stopped the bearer's journey one day, having notice that the Parliament was to be prorogued this day, which it accordingly was this morning until the 20th instant. The House of Commons took it so high that they have passed several angry votes, and those of the other hand who were against the Bill of Exclusion are afraid this is an expedient to have that Bill brought in again, and those who venture to oppose it to be ruined. I cannot learn whether the King intends that or a dissolution, and therefore I will not stay Poule any longer, my desire in it being that I might write the more freely without troubling your Grace with cypher. I had some discourse the other day with my Lord Essex, and thinking it a convenient opportunity I told him I heard there were articles drawn up against you and that his Lordship was acquainted with them and promoted the thing, which I thought was not very fair play, and that if I would make it my business I could find mis-carriages in his government. He disowned absolutely his

having any hand in such a thing or that he knew of anybody else that had such a design, which put an end to our discourse.

My Lord Chamberlain showed me a letter from your Grace of the 3rd instant, but I have had none since the 21st of the last.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 11. London.—Since I writ yesterday by Poule I had altogether four letters from your Grace, and with them several papers relating to Geogheghan, whose actions, when one compares what was sent here before and came to me yesterday, will in my opinion exceed all that Clancy ever did; yet if the Parliament were now sitting and knew how you have proceeded with him, I am confident they would have resolved it a discouraging of the King's evidence, especially in the humour the House of Commons were yesterday in. *It is believed generally this Parliament will sit no more, and those who are great at Court in a manner declare as much,* and therefore the answers to the articles intended against you may rest awhile; besides, upon comparing together what I hear of all sides, I conclude the House of Commons intended only an address against you, and that for not being vigorous enough against the Papists occasioned by the many relations you have amongst them, for none of the sober men will allow of any article of your being either a Papist or in the Plot. A great part of the extract you sent of Dr. Oates his examinations I had collected out of the narrative that lies entered in our books, which he having sworn to there makes it matter of record, or else the printed narrative if occasion had happened would have done no good, as it was found upon my Lord Stafford's trial, Turbervill's printed deposition and what he swore before the Court differing in a material part. Therefore I was very glad to find what related to you entered there. Upon the whole matter there is scarce anybody that knows you, though never so much your enemy, thinks you guilty of anything criminal, and therefore if you are to be given up to them all that can be said for you or said by you will not avail. What to advise you to in this conjuncture is past my skill. My Lord Chamberlain is of opinion to have you set on foot again the calling of a Parliament in Ireland, and to that purpose will inform you himself of his mind. He is very fond of going on with the match still, though he showed me your letter to him of the 3rd, which I had not then received a copy of, my letters coming later to hand than those at Court. His lady, I suppose, has made my sister Ossory much for it, too, for she seemed very much to approve of the matter two days since.

My Lord Brittas as it happens has played the wisest part, now the Parliament is prorogued, for the other gentlemen being committed for treason by the peers, and my Lord Tyrone

being impeached before the peers, cannot have the benefit of the Habeas Corpus Bill. Cornet Colt, as he was walking in the streets yesterday, was chosen second by Mr. Ogleshorp, who killed his man, one Captain Richardson, and the Cornet hurt his man, Captain Churchill, which makes him post away. I find Colt justified by everybody. Lord Hounsden was another, for they fought three to three, he was likewise ill hurt; he was of the same side with the principal that was killed.

THOMAS FAIRFAX to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-81, Jan. 11. Dublin.—I writ to your Lordship two or three posts about Ensign Muschamp and Ensign Forbes, and therein begged your Lordship's pleasure concerning that affair, and I do now again, if your Lordship thinks fit, desire the same favour. The good company I am often with remember your Lordship continually and ask me almost every post some tidings. Therefore (though I know your Lordship must be very busy in such a hurry of affairs as now are), yet if I may have now and then a line it would not be amiss. My Lord Duke went yesterday to the Exchange and bought a whole cupboard of plate, which cost at least 50*l.*, for Lady Charlotte. Lord Tullow says positive your Lordship has forgot him, and bid me put Papa in mind on't. God be thanked, he is very well and the finest little Lord in Christendom, and my Lord Duke and Lady Duchess are exceeding fond of him, as they have all the reason in the world; he is very fond of a match, but it had need be a strong one. We are expecting from you every day what will become of us, God send all go right; but let it go which way it will I shall for ever be, etc.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 15. London.—I had your Grace's letter of the 6th on Thursday last and one by Mr. Coote of the same date, which I shall answer by him, who tells me he returns within two days. I showed your letter to my Lord Sunderland according to command, but he has now as little interest at Court and is as little regarded as ever any fallen minister was, and seems exceedingly mortified; yet I think it proper your dispatches should be directed to him until His Majesty order the contrary, though I intend in any matter of moment to speak to the King myself, since his Lordship intends not to peruse any papers relating to Ireland before he send them to the Council.

I find my Lord Conway does still insist much upon his nephew's having the troop resigned to him, and believes him one of the finest gentlemen in Europe, and nobody dares undeceive him. I showed him that paragraph which concerned that matter in yours of 31 December, and he is much satisfied with it, and has upon it writ to his brother, who it

seems writ his Lordship a discontented letter, grounded, I believe, upon some mistake of my Lord Granard's; and it seems there is another mistake amongst the officers there, which is that the King gives leave to any officers of horse to sell their employments. If you have any such letter it is contrary to His Majesty's intentions, and you may choose whether you will conform to it or no. All that His Majesty ordered was that those officers, both horse and foot, who resolved not to make their residence in Ireland chiefly should have leave within three months to sell their employments to such as His Majesty or you approved or else to lose them. I have been twice at the office to see a copy of the letter, but could not find it, matters are so managed there; therefore I shall trouble the office but little. I have been several times with my cousin Hamilton about her son before we could agree upon what was fittest for him to do, and yesterday she is come to a fixed resolution that her son should buy an employment here, so that the colours you intended for him your Grace may dispose of elsewhere. It is my desire that gentlemen of the best quality should supply such vacancies. I have employed one to Col. Russell to deal for my cousin, for I hear he has a command or two to sell, and the price rises and falls as in other markets, for a brother of Mandeville's, of the county of Tipperary, who is a Protestant, and served well abroad, I recommended to him but a fortnight since, and his money could not reach one. I think I writ above six weeks ago on behalf of Mr. Buck, who had sold his Clerk of the Dockets place to Mr. Ellis upon engagement to change the lives. If the matter be not done accordingly Mr. Buck's executors must pay 1,000 guineas back to Ellis, which will be great inconvenience to them. I will not interpose too far lest it may concern your faithful and honest servant Hen. Gascoigne. As I was making up this I had brought me yours of the 9th with all the remaining copies of examinations which should have come last post. These, with what has been sent me before, swell to such a bulk that the perusing them has made my head turn round almost as much as the Commons have made Sir John Davys's. I will next opportunity find how the King stands inclined towards Sir Joseph. My Lord Lanesborough writ upon the same subject to my Lord Chamberlain a pretty while ago, which letter he showed me, but it seems he chose a wrong man, for my Lord thinks he has not behaved himself towards him as he ought in gratitude due have done, and therefore would give Sir George no encouragement in the matter. I doubt not but you have found long ere this that the speech you mention was burnt by the hand of the hangman, and the printer ordered to be proceeded against at law. The Lord who was suspected to have spoke did not say all that was there, but took liberty enough. Toby Purcell is gone from hence in the stage coach, he is very much commended by all the officers

for his diligence and courage, therefore pray be kind to him and do me the favour to let him know I have writ on his behalf, for I promised to write by him, but was not at home when he called for his letter the night before he went away, though I had one for him. I have so much work upon my hands now and have nobody to help me that I hope my Lord Longford will not persecute me with cipher. Hethrington and David Fitzgerald are at open wars before the Board, and I take part as much as I do appear with the latter, whom I am sorry has not all the proofs against that fellow he might be furnished with on that side, but he will prove him rogue enough.

ORMOND to SIR JOHN DAVYS.

1680-81, Jan. 15. Dublin.—I have received two of yours from London; your last of the 28th of December left you in such a condition as gives me much impatience to know what was reported to the House of Commons in your affair, and what resolution it produced. I do not conceive that your case can receive determination in that place, or that there can be matter sufficient alleged and proved against you for either address or impeachment, which are or should be acts of solemnity and well grounded, else they may lose much of their weight. There comes to us every post some new offers of discovery, most of them from the county of Limerick, yet they begin to spread into the county of Galway; as fast as they are brought to any maturity they are and shall be transmitted to my Lord Sunderland and copies of them to my son Arran, who will impart them to you as he finds you at leisure. Our last letters out of England bear date the 1st of January. Much change there may be since then, upon which our peace and proceedings will depend. I know nothing I can do here or write from hence that can be of use to you; if I did you should not want it or anything that may manifest my being, etc.

EARL OF CONWAY to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 15. London.—My Lord of Arran hath acquainted me with your Grace's favour in consenting that my brother Rawdon shall transfer his troop to his son, by which your Grace hath laid the greatest obligation upon me in the world, and I believe my nephew is as hopeful a youth as any in that kingdom, and will be as ready to serve the King and your Grace.

I know your Grace hath heard of the late prorogation and intended dissolution, and what is to be done next. I told my Lord of Arran that I thought nothing so necessary in this juncture for the King's service and the good of Ireland as the present calling a Parliament there. 'Tis certain they will be loyal, though my Lord Shaftesbury and my Lord Essex will influence some, and my Lord Burlington, who hath not

gone with them this session in English affairs, will go with them in Irish affairs. But if the King should call for any of his forces there I do not see how your Grace can keep up an army, which is only capable to secure that kingdom, without a Parliament that must give money, and will certainly provide for the peace and safety of Ireland. I have discourse of this with others who are conversant in the King's affairs, and when the King hath made a regulation in his Court and Council, I believe it will find no difficulty here. In the meantime if I receive any commands from your Grace I shall obey them and as long as I live I shall study by all manner of service to shew your Grace that I esteem myself obliged to be, etc.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680-81, January 15.—It is not forgetfulness of my duty which has withheld me from making frequent addresses to your Excellency, but the fear of being rude and troublesome. At present the King having declared his purpose to meet his Parliament in this place, which is under your Excellency's patronage, I conceive it may not be undecent to give your Excellency an account thereof, and withal to assure you that all possible care shall be taken to do everything that may become us upon the occasion, and suit with our concern that your Honour may not suffer in our miscarriage. My Lord Ossory, I hope, does everything that may give your Excellency satisfaction and alleviate your cares for the public by the comfort which you receive from his virtue and industry, and prospect of your families flourishing in future generations. My Lord Courcy, who has long depended upon your Excellency's charity for his support, is now grown up to be capable of a farther instance of it by being brought into the world. I the rather mention this now, because I understand that he has several Papist relations in the Court, and possibly there may be others whose example may be as pernicious as their opinions. I beg your Excellency's pardon for this freedom.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 16. London.—Mr. Coote informing me this night in the drawing-room that he was to go for Ireland to-morrow, I would not let him go without a letter, though I writ at large last night, and have not much to say in answer to the letter he brought me from you concerning my nephew. I have been with my sister Cavendish since I received it and she tells me that the Duke of Newcastle has four daughters unmarried and none of them tolerably handsome but one; the estate it is likely will be divided amongst his five daughters, but then my Lord Devonshire will think he has hard measure, for there was a promise betwixt the two fathers that their paternal estates for want of heirs males should fall to the surviving heir, and my Lord

Devonshire's is so settled. My Lord Chamberlain, notwithstanding what you writ, will, I am sure, take it ill if any overture should be made until he has spoken with his kinsman, and he says and has satisfied my sister Ossory that advances now will be made of their side. You may be sure of the Duke of Newcastle's daughter when you please. I cannot learn yet whether the Parliament will meet or no, but by Tuesday's post without doubt we shall know.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 18. London.—This day His Majesty, having ordered the calling an extraordinary Council, was pleased to declare his resolution of dissolving this present Parliament and calling another, and thereupon gave order for a proclamation for the immediate dissolving this and for the appointing a new Parliament on the 21st of March next to meet at Oxford. The Earl of Salisbury debating against it was silenced by His Majesty, upon which his Lordship desiring leave to withdraw himself, the King answered he could not make any request that would be more easily granted, and ordered his Lordship's name to be struck out of the Council Book.

This day three letters with several enclosed examinations from your Grace and Council of Ireland were communicated to the Board by the Earl of Sunderland. To that which concerned Geoghegan, alias Dalton, their Lordships have ordered a letter to be writ from the Board to your Grace to proceed against him there for his misdemeanours with the utmost severity of the law, and to the examinations contained in the other two letters they have appointed a day for the Committee of Examinations to meet to consider them. I do propose myself the honour of very speedily kissing your Grace's hands in Ireland

EARL OF ABBAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 18. London.—This day the King has ordered in Council that this Parliament should be dissolved and that another should be called the 28th of March next to meet at Oxford, upon which, as I am informed by a Privy Councillor, my Lord Salisbury has quitted his place in Council. What measures will be taken after this I will learn as well as I can. Sir William Courtenay was at the Council door to prefer a petition to His Majesty for the sitting of the Parliament at the time appointed in behalf of the county of Devon, but the sudden dissolution hindered the delivery of it. I believe I shall send over this post a letter for Sir Joseph Williamson's being of the Council in Ireland, for the King has consented to it with a great deal of kindness to him, and Secretary Jenkins has promised to set His Majesty's hand to the letter this night and have it entered at the Signet Office before the post goes away. The Irish witnesses brought over

gone with them this session in English affairs, will go with them in Irish affairs. But if the King should call for any of his forces there I do not see how your Grace can keep up an army, which is only capable to secure that kingdom, without a Parliament that must give money, and will certainly provide for the peace and safety of Ireland. I have discourse of this with others who are conversant in the King's affairs, and when the King hath made a regulation in his Court and Council, I believe it will find no difficulty here. In the meantime if I receive any commands from your Grace I shall obey them and as long as I live I shall study by all manner of service to shew your Grace that I esteem myself obliged to be, etc.

JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford, to ORMOND.

1680-81, January 15.—It is not forgetfulness of my duty which has withheld me from making frequent addresses to your Excellency, but the fear of being rude and troublesome. At present the King having declared his purpose to meet his Parliament in this place, which is under your Excellency's patronage, I conceive it may not be undecent to give your Excellency an account thereof, and withal to assure you that all possible care shall be taken to do everything that may become us upon the occasion, and suit with our concern that your Honour may not suffer in our miscarriage. My Lord Ossory, I hope, does everything that may give your Excellency satisfaction and alleviate your cares for the public by the comfort which you receive from his virtue and industry, and prospect of your families flourishing in future generations. My Lord Courcy, who has long depended upon your Excellency's charity for his support, is now grown up to be capable of a farther instance of it by being brought into the world. I rather mention this now, because I understand that he has several Papist relations in the Court, and possibly there may be others whose example may be as pernicious as their opinions. I beg your Excellency's pardon for this freedom.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 16. London.—Mr. Coote informing me this night in the drawing-room that he was to go for Ireland to-morrow, I would not let him go without a letter, though I writ at large last night, and have not much to say in answer to the letter he brought me from you concerning my nephew. I have been with my sister Cavendish since I received it and she tells me that the Duke of Newcastle has four daughters unmarried and none of them tolerably handsome but one; the estate it is likely will be divided amongst his five daughters, but then my Lord Devonshire will think he has hard measure, for there was a promise betwixt the two fathers that their paternal estates for want of heirs males should fall to the surviving heir, and my Lord

Devonshire's is so settled. My Lord Chamberlain, notwithstanding what you writ, will, I am sure, take it ill if any overture should be made until he has spoken with his kinsman, and he says and has satisfied my sister Ossory that advances now will be made of their side. You may be sure of the Duke of Newcastle's daughter when you please. I cannot learn yet whether the Parliament will meet or no, but by Tuesday's post without doubt we shall know.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 18. London.—This day His Majesty, having ordered the calling an extraordinary Council, was pleased to declare his resolution of dissolving this present Parliament and calling another, and thereupon gave order for a proclamation for the immediate dissolving this and for the appointing a new Parliament on the 21st of March next to meet at Oxford. The Earl of Salisbury debating against it was silenced by His Majesty, upon which his Lordship desiring leave to withdraw himself, the King answered he could not make any request that would be more easily granted, and ordered his Lordship's name to be struck out of the Council Book.

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lately by Hethrington's orders were this day attending the Board, but were not called in; to-morrow they will be examined, as I am informed by a Committee of the Board., I cannot yet tell what course to steer myself by, but shall follow your directions, though you are at such a distance.

. LORD CLARE to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 18. Carrigaholt.—Having lately had some discourse with Mr. Donough O'Brien of Dogh, my cousin german, and one of the most solid and considerable gentlemen of this county, I endeavoured to persuade him to tell me what he knew of the Popish designs these years past, assuring myself that if they had any in our country he must needs know it. But I could find no more from him than what is in the enclosed copy, which, however, I thought fit to send your Grace; in regard I know Brady to be the most eminent, zealous and most knowing man of his order in this kingdom, and that nothing of the Papists' designs here could be hid from him, and that I believe had he not an opinion of my cousin to be a man that loves his quiet and the world as he calls it, he would have told him more, his work being to be carried on only by men elevated in the spirit or desperate fellows. His saying there were Papists in every county to characterize the faithful and the disposition of the people shows plainly there was a Popish design in hand to be executed either at the King's death or before. This being my opinion and that really there was a design to subvert the government, as I intimated to His Majesty about ten year ago, made me send this little information to your Grace, being likewise persuaded that many considerable gentlemen of our country will be ingenious, and discover the particulars of it if the Parliament continues sitting in England, for I am certain nothing dissuades them but the daily hopes they have to hear it is either dissolved or prorogued, and that their Popish favourites will return again to Court, which makes me humbly pray your Grace to move His Majesty for the continuance of this sessions in England, that now or never Popery may be extinguished in this kingdom for good and all.

I am certain that if the course I presumed to propose ten years ago to His Majesty were taken, most of the youth of Ireland had ere now conformed with the Church. I was then well hampered for my pains by the Popish party as your Grace knows, yet I will never cease to urge that matter at all times I see hopes of being heard. It is in vain to think that we and our posterity can live with safety under a Protestant Government in this kingdom, if Popery be not wholly extinguished in it; the doing of it by halves will not secure us, it leaves us exposed to all Popish Princes that quarrels with England. And yet this mischief may in few years be prevented by banishing of their priests, which with the loss

of all hopes of their favourites becoming again great at Court would soon bring them to conform. But while they have such hopes no law or punishment will bring them to it. Nay, few magistrates will be forward to see the law executed, as we find by experience. We are in greater danger than they are in England; yet if they clear the fountain we shall have wholesome streams, which makes me again most humbly beg your Grace to move His Majesty that the Parliament may continue sitting until we find out to the full this infernal Popish conspiracy which hath been in this kingdom, and which doubtless will be made out clearly if the Parliament sits for some reasonable time longer in England.

My Lord, I was hitherto silent like the burnt child that dreads the fire. I despaired of the Parliament's sitting long, and of the suppression of that strong party of Papists I saw in England (I fear them still), and I was glad to draw in my horns and retire to this solitary shell, being very sensible I have not parts to represent the danger I saw and I see still we are in, having had scarce two words of English at the King's restoration; however, my zeal to preserve the interest I profess hath put me long ago upon showing my weakness in writing to His Majesty, as it does now to your Grace. But no man will be more ready to venture his life in the Kings' service than I will be whenever your Grace is pleased to command.

ORMOND TO EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-81, Jan. 18. Dublin.—Three of yours came this day, the last was of the 11th, but Mulys if he went not out of the way to Knowsley rides not fast, else he might have been here with the packets. There is no return to be made to anything you have writ, nor anything new from hence. Some additional account of Geoghegan's extravagances you will soon have; whether credit will be given to them or to him I know not, but truth shall be told; and yet I dare not, though it be manifest, say that most of our new discoverers give more discredit than confirmation to the plot. It is well that I am not like to be charged for a plotter or a Papist. That I have Popish relations is no more my fault than it was the first Reformers that they had so, and I suppose that the vote that there has been and is still a horrid Popish plot on foot is so resolved from the examinations and witnesses I sent over. And when what has been done against the Papists both clergy and laity shall be considered (as possibly it never will), I know not what could be done more. An address is a softer way than an impeachment; but being commonly in general terms it affords no means of vindication, and in that respect is worse than an impeachment, but since I am not to choose I submit to either as it shall please God to order it. I am sorry Cornet Colt makes haste hither upon the account he doth. You may assure Sir John Davys that neither he nor

Bolton shall suffer by their absence. My Lord Sunderland by the King's command hath written for two witnesses, Fitzgerald and Downey, who were well on their way to London before I received the letter ; but I yet hear nothing of leaving such as shall be sent for at Ohester. It is too early yet to think of, at least to propose what my Lord Chamberlain mentions. The proper season has been unhappily slipt over against all the representations I could make, and I have suffered undeserved mortifications for making them, and that from those that have shown themselves to be unworthy of the credit that was given them. The dispositions of men here are much changed from what they were, and yet I think steadiness on that side would do much towards bringing us here to our former temper. But if the Court, the Papists and the fanatics drive one way he must be mad that stands in their way, and this has been the case. As to the match for my grandson it must come very fairly and with great present advantage, if I entertain any further motion concerning it.

ORMOND to LORD CLARE.

1680-81, Jan. 22. Dublin.—I have received you Lordship's of the 18th inst., and the information of Mr. Donough O'Brien, of Dogh, and though the information would of itself seem to be of small moment, yet in conjunction with other evidence and circumstances and considering the quality of Mr. O'Brien and the temper you say he is of, it may confirm the truth and reality of a plot, and therefore I earnestly desire your lordship to make use of your utmost interest and industry to make a further and more particular discovery of the Papists' designs against His Majesty, his Government and the Protestant religion. In the meantime I shall make the best use I can of the other parts of your Lordship's letter, tho' before you can receive this letter you will have heard that the Parliament is or was prorogued, and that it is probable it is by this time resolved when it shall meet again. Your lordship mentions not whether Brady the Friar be in Ireland or no ; if he be it would be of the greatest importance to have him apprehended, and I recommend it to your Lordship's care. I shall represent your zeal and diligence in this conjuncture to His Majesty.

ORMOND to the KING.

1680-81, Jan. 22. Dublin.—Yesterday I received the original of the enclosed copy from my [Lord of] Clare,* together with the information of Mr. Donough O'Brien ; the contents of the letter are of such a nature that I hold it my duty to transmit the copy of it immediately to your own hands, supposing it probable that the Lord of Clare may have sent another to somebody else. Your Majesty best knows what use to make of the original (which in the meantime shall

* See p. 556 *supra*.

be safely kept) and what further to command me concerning it. I send your Majesty likewise a copy of the information, and of my answer to that Lord. God direct your Majesty through all the difficulties before you.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 22. London.—I sent your Grace by the last packet Sir Joseph Williamson's letter to be sworn a privy councillor there, but sent it after my other letters were gone, the Signet Office having not dispatched it till after nine at night. The talk about the town is that my Lord Sunderland is to part with his secretary's place; the candidates are Sir William Temple, Mr. Finch and Sir Thomas Littleton, and some say Mr. Seymour. I have spoke to the King several times about recruiting the Scots companies that are in Ireland, and he still promised to send his commands to raise them in Scotland by beat of drum, without which they are not to be had, and it is not certain whether they can be raised that way neither; so that I inclined to have them rather supplied out of the north of Ireland, for the beating drums in this conjuncture may be of bad consequence, and the being without their complement is ill also.

His Majesty has commanded my attendance this next Parliament and continues the same commands to you as he gave me for you at my first coming hither, and sent your Grace since by my Lord Longford. Mr. Gwyn goes next week for Ireland, and my Lord Chamberlain; he and I are to meet the day before he goes to discourse of matters, that he may inform you that by word of mouth which may be difficult for his lordship or me to write. I have thoughts whether I stay the Parliament's meeting or no to take a trip into Ireland if you approve of it; yet whatever you may conclude on that side, matters may so alter when my back is turned as may make those measures you may prudently take impracticable when I return. There came the other day about 25 witnesses out of Ireland under the conduct of Owen Murphy and the messenger Wilks brought Maurice Fitzgerald and Murtagh Dowling; the former, I am told, disowns the printed information upon which we made that brisk vote concerning there being a plot in Ireland.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1 Jan. 25. Dublin.—I have received yours of the 18th and this morning that of the 10th by Mulys. If it was good to dissolve the last Parliament and so soon to call another I think the place of sitting well chosen; but for the present I suppose it determines the question of calling a Parliament here. I desire you to deliver the packet enclosed herewith into the King's hands as soon after you receive it as you can have an opportunity, and let the seals be well

observed, for I find a packet of mine was opened in December last and a ring of 50*l.* taken out of it, for which I am to pay. I think you ought to stay till the Parliament meets, then you may expect fair weather without doors whatever it may be within; but this with submission to the King's pleasure, which you may inform yourself by desiring to know it. If you come away whatever my Lord of Shaftesbury shall say in the House touching Ireland upon the falsest information will pass for current truth, and hasty resolves may be made upon it such as may be of considerable prejudice to the King's service, if my reputation or continuance in this Government be of any importance to it. In case His Majesty would have you stay, if you can have any tolerable conveniency I think you should take your wife with you, Oxford being so far in your way hither. There is time enough to think of the match for James; that my Lord Chamberlain proposed is in a good posture. If it comes on from the other side I will not say but that the advantages may be such as I may close with it.

If the King have a mind to gratify any of the officers of his army here with leave to stay longer in England than my order allows, let it be privately signified to me by one of the secretaries, and it shall be complied with; but a formal public letter will draw importunity upon him and prejudice upon the discipline of the army.

Toby Purcell is not yet come; when he arrives he shall know of your kindness to him. A notorious Tory in Munster being ready to be sent by my lord of Orrery to prison, and at last actually perhaps too hastily sent thither by his lordship, offers at great discoveries and names many persons as guilty of the Plot, but orders will go this night for his setting at liberty and for protecting him in his way hither. The fellow's name is Henaghan, as I think in times past an attorney in the Presidency Court, but since that was suppressed turned robber. He has put his tale as well together as any of this country.

ANONYMOUS to ORMOND.

1680, January 25.—The quality your lordship has in this monarchy and the place you hold in Ireland obliges me to give your Grace a short and true account of our condition here that you may the better know how to take your measures. How the Parliament came to be prorogued and afterwards dissolved I suppose your Grace may be informed by other hands, but it may not be inconvenient to take things a little higher, that your Grace may know as well the foundations wherein our babel was built as the form and figure of the building itself. In the Parliament preceding the last there was a Bill offered for the exclusion of the Duke in the House of Commons which was contrived, managed and prosecuted by the Earl of Shaftesbury and a party of his in that

House, but the dependents of the Duke of Monmouth did so visibly appear in it that a just jealousy was thence taken of him by His R.H., but in that Bill there was an acknowledgment of his highness being the presumptive heir of the Crown, which was innocently inserted by those that knew not the mystery, but the cabal were well enough contented to have that Parliament broke to mend that flaw in another. In the meantime several traverses happened which will take up too much time to repeat. The Duke had heard of some practises set on foot by the Monmouthians to prove a marriage betwixt the King and the Duke of Monmouth's mother, and he unnecessarily thereupon put His Majesty upon declarations against it in Council, which rather animated than discouraged the party, for the people had conceived such a terror of the approaches of Popery, and consequently of the Duke's succeeding to the Crown, that they were apt enough to embrace any title to be secured against them. The Duke of Monmouth was suffered without check to go from place to place and county to county and was met and caressed like an heir apparent, whilst some thought the King by being so passive at it was not therewith displeased. In the meantime the Court became much divided. The Duchess of Portsmouth upon some resentment against the Duchess of York for a conceived slight of her was resolved to ruin the Duke. Godly Godolphin being enamoured and intoxicated with Mrs. Buckley was trusted to manage the intrigue. Sunderland in opinion of the omnipotent power of the Duchess closed in it, and by means of Sir William Temple (the chief statesman of them all) Sir H. Capel was the instrument to beget correspondence betwixt them and Shaftesbury, Montague, Lord Russell, Titus, Sir William Jones, Wil. Herbert and Sir Francis Winnington, who were the chief managers of the Commons in the last Parliament. They had others fell in with them, as Sir Nich. Cary, Roscawen, Vernon of Derbyshire, Hamden, Hotham, and other hot and violent conductors, Garaway, Sacheverill, Clarges, Birch, Hawell [? Stawell] and others, who were men thought warm enough at other times had now no vogue. A Bill was brought in to exclude the Duke, wherein no mention was made of his being presumptive heir of the Crown, nor would it be admitted to be added to it by amendment, nor any salvo to his children by name as was moved and pressed, but all left so ambiguous that the Duke of Monmouth, if the King died before him, might make his pretensions. The Bill passed the Commons with scarce two negatives, not any of those of the Privy Council in that House except Lionel Jenkins and Lory Hyde having courage to oppose it. The Lord Cavendish was for it, but took occasion sometimes to shew his dislike of the violence and virulence of the prosecutors, and once he inveighed against French mistresses, and said he doubted of the success of their endeavours, because they ought not to prosecute any actions

though in themselves just, by unjust means. When the Bill came to the Lords it was there rejected. Sunderland appeared for it and so did Privy Seal, but Halifax withstood all opposition and answered all objections made to support it, and in this conflict Essex, who had hitherto been his friend, went over to Shaftesbury and voted for the Bill, and the Duke of Monmouth contrary to the advice of his friends spoke against it in terms too indecent for his circumstances. This miscarriage of the Bill exasperated the party so much that an insurrection was feared, but the party were encouraged by Portsmouth to persist with assurance of success, and then there was a private bargain struck, Jones was to be Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Winnington Attorney General, Montague an Earl or Marquis, Lord Russell the Government of Portsmouth, Hamden a Privy Councillor, Titus Secretary of State, Capel restored to the Admiralty, and Holms (?) Secretary to that Commission. Shaftesbury was left out, which made him arraign and protest against the whole business; Halifax and Seymour were no parties to this matter, and to be removed from the Court, the first by an address and sharp votes, the other by an impeachment. These proceedings were aggravated by the daily alarms of the dangers of Popery and the progress of a plot in Ireland to massacre the English and introduce the arms of France. Your Grace had occasionally many reflections on your Government and the Lord Chancellor talked of as a great favourer of the Romish religion. They said that when the King was restored there were but forty Popish priests in Ireland, and these removed to the Islands of Arran and no blood shed to effect it, but only a resolute proclamation to give 5*l.* to any that discovered a priest (which was also the price of a wolf's head) and a strict practise of sending them when discovered to Arran Isles made them all rather quit that kingdom than go thither; but upon your Grace's first admittance to that Government seventeen or eighteen years ago above ten thousand of that brood flocked thither and are still there, which does not only give life to all their plots, but so weakens and impoverishes the people that they are almost in a starving condition. They said moreover that in Cromwell's time, when the priests were put from the people, and Protestant ministers were found out to preach to them in Irish, and the statute of ninepence a Sunday imposed on all that avoided the Church, Popery began so much to decline that in seven years there would have been little of it left in that kingdom, and the like proceedings again would have the like effects. The great heat in the House of Commons made many hope the King would have sent to command the Duke to be informed in the Protestant religion, but it was not done, and some (upon, I hope, groundless opinion) said privately in Court the King had so encouraged him in it and was himself heretofore so well persuaded of that religion that he durst not do it. Friday, the 7th of January, was a hot

day in the House of Commons, the leaders there had purpose to vote the Chancellor, Privy Seal, Radnor, Halifax and Hyde evil counsellors and to be removed from the King's presence. They began with Halifax and Hyde, but others were by accidental motions introduced against the sense of the managers, whereby the three first escaped, but it was pleasant to see how the faction writhed when Portsmouth was named, and Sir William Jones was fain to use more art than honesty to save her ; but if it had not been very late at night and the members had been fasting she had been irredeemably routed. This day's debate produced a resolution in the King to prorogue the Parliament on Monday following, which was the 9th, to the 20th. And on the 18th, two days before it was to sit, His Majesty declared in Council that it should be dissolved. The Earl of Salisbury stood up in Council to speak against it, but was not admitted to it, and when he desired to withdraw it was not only permitted to him, but he was struck out of the Council also. Essex muttered and Sir Robert Carr stood up to move, but would not be suffered to speak. Halifax was not there, and the next day all the advice of this counsel was imputed in the city to him, Arlington and Hyde, but the contrary afterwards appeared, and Seymour has the honour to be the sole patron of it, in conjunction, as some think, with Danby, whereby the mediation of old St. Albans is thought to be closed with him. The late leaders of the Commons think Portsmouth betrayed them. Sunderland was yesterday put out of the Council, and Essex and Sir William Temple with him. Conway is made Secretary of State ; what will be the fate of Godolphin I know not. I pray God there be no money from France.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 25. London.—I had yesterday your Grace's of the 18th and thought it proper in this conjuncture to show to the King, who was pleased to say upon the latter clause of it that I might see by what he did and intended to do that the Court should not drive any more that way. My Lord Sunderland is turned out of his employments and my Lord Conway is believed to be the man that will succeed him in his secretary's place. My Lord Essex and Sir William Temple were dismissed the Council ; it seems I was much mistaken in my last letter in my intelligence concerning Sir William.

There was this day an address or petition delivered to His Majesty by ten of the peers and signed by fifteen. If I can remember the names I will enclose them. The address was much to the purpose the City's was, only they desired the Parliament might meet at Westminster, or else they could not freely give their advice. It will be in print without doubt before the next post, and then it will be sent you ;] it is much higher than ever the peers went in the Long

Parliament. Within a few days they say the King will turn out some of his bedchamber, but I cannot write this for a certainty. My Lord Halifax went this day into the country, and said he intended not to leave it until the meeting of the Parliament. Sir James Butler desires me to put you in mind of the business he wrote to you about concerning Sir John Poyntz, for some answer or other will be expected from you this term. I mentioned something of the same business upon the widow's desire above a month since.

ORMOND to the KING.

1680-1, January 28. Dublin.—Sir Robert Walsh has ever since I last came into this kingdom attempted to provoke me to a correspondence with him, but I have still declined it by making no return to very many letters I have received from him. He then betook himself to my secretary, Henry Gascoigne, and many letters he directed to him with desire they might be imparted to me, but neither that way had he any encouragement to give himself that trouble, yet by the last post he directed one to [Gas]coigne, which seems to me to give some light to my Lord [of Clarendon's] letter to me, of which I sent Your Majesty a copy with mine of the 22 of this month. If Sir Robert being with Mr. Secretary Jenkins was to inform him of what he came to know I presume the intelligence is or will be driven as far as it is fit it should go. However, I thought it fit for me to send your Majesty a transcript of so much of the letter as relates to my Lord of Clarendon's correspondence. [Encloses the following letter.]

SIR ROBERT WALSH to HENRY GASCOIGNE.

1680-81, Jan. 22—You see I cannot leave still giving you the trouble of my scribbles, yet perhaps the tenents of the enclosed may not be disregarded. The best of your kingdom, I am confident, will not for the most part disallow therein. It's not yet cried, as most prints be. Everything having its time, I only excepted.

Here happened lately an accident: a letter from the country addressed unto Lord Shaftesbury and one therein to Lord Salisbury. The letters dropt in the carriage, and being found and taken up by a porter, being opened they were brought unto a neighbour the next door to me, one that lived in the King's Head in the Budge Row, a cook, in whose house I often in those days waited upon a great good man at the eating of many good leg a mutton. You wonder why I bring this story *sur le tapis*; but to come to our former chapter. These letters as formerly addressed were brought to be read unto one Dutton, the son of him of the King's Head in Budge Row, who lives right over here against my lodging in the White Friars. He coming to see me and used to receive any letter addressed to me, as sometimes some are to his

house, the Bull Head in White Friars, he comes to communicate unto me these letters writ from Ireland by the Earl of Clare, wherein he declares some things as being plottish, which I touch not now upon; he much wonders how slowly he hears from their lordships projected games are coming into play. I was yesternight, after Dutton's going from me, with Sir Leonell Jenkins, a most civil, well understanding bred man and a person fit to be a State Secretary. If ever I had got the report on the King's reference unto you there I am confident that this secretary would have served me. He knows civility, and when justice is in the case requisite. I cannot say as much of some upstarts, for whom, if I could from that country have but my own or fair dealing from them of that your nation I would not value at a f. some that out of nothing are raised to something, and now would hardly acknowledge him that made them. So God bless his Grace. If you may think of favouring me with a line, address it to Mr. Dutton at the Bull Head, in White Friars, for S.R., Janry. 22th.

Postscript.—The last post day I sent you a packet in which was one for my Lord Ossory, and one for H.G. And a particular little one for yourself in order, as so was superscribed, for His Majesty's Service, which I hope you have observed in a bumper. If you would say by a line I have received yours you would do yourself no wrong, and would do me right, my honest dear Harry, so I bid you good-night. My duty unto her Grace pray present, and service to your good lady. Lord Stafford's trial and circumstances I wish I could as easily send you. It's 40 sheets in folio.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Jan. 29. London.—It is not yet declared who will succeed my Lord Sunderland in his employment of secretary, but it is still generally believed that my Lord Conway will be the man. He professes the greatest kindness imaginable to your Grace and myself, but most do think that my Lord Ranelagh will have that employment in time thrown up to him. I have nothing worth your trouble this post, but what you will find in the prints. The answer to my Lord Essex's speech and the Lords' petition in my judgment is very well writ. My Lord Burlington desires very much that the Scots Companies should be removed from his town of Youghal; what his quarrel to them is I can't imagine. I told him that the time of year was very improper, so that he does not expect it until spring. Jack St. Leger is the busiest man about the Irish witnesses next to Hethrington in all this town, as I am very credibly informed, and I believe the messengers at their return into Ireland will inform you as much. I desire that you would hereafter order

your letters to me to be directed to Secretary Jenkins his office, for I shall receive them sometimes twenty-four hours sooner that way than the other. When the other secretary is declared I will receive His Majesty's commands to whom your Grace should direct your dispatches.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 29. London.—I intended to have had the honour of kissing your Grace's hands in Ireland instead of this letter, but the uncertainty of affairs here persuaded me (together with my Lord of Arran's opinion) to stop my journey till I might be better enabled to give your Grace an account of the posture we are in; but the more particular reason was the discourse of my Lord of Conway's succeeding my Lord Sunderland in the office of Secretary of State, which though all conclude will be, yet is not yet done. Mr. Weld is upon his journey into Ireland and brings with him the order of Council appointing myself and him the other two commissioners for managing the revenue, who are to be continued with salary upon the establishment, which for my part I should have not so heartily pressed but that I had assurance of your Grace's kind inclinations towards me.

I suppose your Grace hath received an account of my Lord of Essex delivering the petition against the sitting of the Parliament at Oxford, with his Lordship's success therein, which was being removed out of the Lord Lieutenancy of Hertfordshire, and the Lord Bridgewater's being put in his place, his Lordship, the Lord Sunderland and Sir William Temple being before that removed out of the Council, and their places supplied by my Lord Oxford, Lord Chesterfield and Lord Ailesbury. Here is likewise great discourse of the removal of the Earl of Macklesfeld, Earl of Manchester and Earl of Suffolk out of the Bedchamber; but till my Lord Sunderland hath the seals taken from him men seem not to believe it, and in short everybody seems at present more in suspense than they were four days ago. Here hath lately happened a great quarrel between Sir Henry Ingoldsby and Mr. David FitzGerald, which upon complaint of Mr. Justice Warcup was referred to the Lord Ailesbury, executing the place of Earl Marshal, to compose and prevent any further inconvenience.

Mr. Williams, likewise Speaker of the late Parliament, making oath in the King's Bench that Sir Robert Peyton had lately been at his chamber and demanded satisfaction of him in discourse for a paper (which was dispersed abroad in the coffee-houses under the title of Mr. Speaker's speech to Sir Robert Peyton when he was discharged the House), which he did interpret was intended a challenge, and transmitting the said oath to Mr. Secretary Jenkins, who brought it before the Board yesterday. The Council was pleased to send Sir Robert Peyton to the Tower by their warrant

expressing for giving a challenge to Williams, Speaker of the late Parliament.

I do propose to myself as soon as matters are in any settlement here to wait upon your Grace in Ireland, and in the meantime humbly beg your Grace's favour in relation to my employment there.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Jan. 31. Dublin.—Sir Phil. Lloyd gave me notice that upon what was represented hence concerning Geoghegan I should have order to proceed against him with all the severity the law would allow; but though there be a post since arrived I have no such order. I hope their mind is not changed, if it be it were well they would direct how he shall be treated. If the above mentioned order be not sent away inform yourself upon what account it is stopped, for though the fellow be not worth a rope, yet something may be collected from what shall be ordered concerning him. I have hitherto suffered no check to be imposed upon the defective men in the remaining five Scotch companies, intending that by the benefit of allowing it to them they should at their own charge fill up their companies. But I can hear of no progress they have made towards it, though the Lt. Col. has been a good while in Scotland, and I begin to doubt that men will not be had thence with or without beating drums till the rest of the regiment be returned from Tangier, nor yet in the north of Ireland for fear of being sent thither. But it seems hard that when a plot is voted to be here, and whilst out of Munster we are so hotly alarmed, and whilst really the Protestants of this kingdom may be in greater danger than ever from the exasperation of the Papists, and their apprehension that it is intended to extirpate them and their religion, I say it is hard that in such a case and conjuncture we may not have means to fill up the army to the establishment with English or with Scotch Protestants, since if it were filled it is too little to secure all the important places in the kingdom.

As far off as the meeting of the Parliament is, I thought it not amiss to send over authority to some Lords to administer the usual oaths to the members of the House of Commons. You may cause it to be delivered to the Secretary of State or to one of the clerks of the Council, I know not which is most proper. I have recommended a concern not of the Archbishop, but of the Archbishopric of Dublin to my Lord Sunderland, wherein upon occasion I wish you would interest yourself.

EARL OF DERBY to ORMOND.

1680-81, Jan. 31. Knowsley.—Though your Grace has been troubled of late with several letters from me, yet I cannot refrain this time because I must give your Grace my humble thanks for the present of wine you were pleased to

make me, which is extraordinary good, and which I esteem as much as I ought to do, and I hope personally by the next summer to assure your Grace I will always study to deserve your good opinion, for I really intend with my wife to pay you a visit if affairs here will give me leave. I am sure I should be much concerned upon a double account if I am prevented writing upon your Grace not only because we are not so well here as I should wish to be, but that I must be hindered having the honour and the satisfaction of being with your Grace, which I without compliment or affectation do desire, but what is less, yet I hope I may be pardoned if I say I extremely long to see Kilkenny, which I have heard so much of. My wife is now with me as I am writing, she presents her duty to you, and she desires me to assure your Grace from her that she really believes I speak my mind in what I have now said, which though without her assurance I hope I have given your Grace no reason to question, yet I know her assurance will strengthen what I have writ.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 1. London.—I troubled your Grace by the last post with the reason of my not attending your Grace in Ireland myself, instead of that letter in expectation of my Lord Conway's succeeding my Lord Sunderland in the office of secretary, which was last night made an end of; His Majesty then delivering the seals to his Lordship without allowing any recompense to be given to my Lord Sunderland. My attendance at this time on his Lordship will prevent my intended journey at present; but in the meantime I hope I may be more capable of serving your Grace on this side the water, which I shall do with the greatest diligence and sincerity in my power.

Upon my resolution of kissing your Grace's hands in Ireland I received commands from Mr. Seymour which, by reason of the delaying my journey, I will give your Grace an account of here. He doth with the greatest frankness and sincerity desire the continuance of your Grace's friendship, and hath commanded me to assure your Grace that he shall upon all occasions be very ready to obey your Grace's commands whenever you shall please to think it fit to lay them upon him. Upon the prospect of my not going Mr. Seymour was pleased to mention something of the same kind to Sir John Davys, which he will be able to deliver better in discourse when he waits on your Grace than I am able to do in a letter.

His Majesty hath been pleased to order that the former method should be observed in direction of affairs out of Ireland to the senior secretary, but I am assured there will be a concurrence both in Mr. Secretary Jenkins and my Lord Conway for your Grace's service at all times.

Mr. Justice Warcup and three of his brethren, Justices of Middlesex, are ordered to examine the last twenty-three wit-

nesses that came out of Ireland, four ether (of whom Morish FitzGerald and Murtagh Downey are two) have been examined by them already and desired leave to return again into Ireland, which is given them with an allowance to bear their charges.

EARL OF ARBAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 1. London.—This afternoon I had your Grace's letter of the 25th of the last and the enclosed packet for His Majesty, which I delivered to him within an hour after I received it. He had not time to read over then the enclosed papers, so that if he has any commands for you upon them they must be deferred until the next post, for the letters are sent constantly from this end of the town at nine a clock at night. Yesterday the seals were given to my Lord Conway, and he still professes great service for your Grace and desired me to let you know that Mr. Seymour will serve you faithfully in anything that concerns you or the affairs of that kingdom if you think fit to acquaint him with them, therefore I think you would do well in answer to this letter to make some compliment to this letter to make some compliment to him and give me directions to apply to him, for he is now in great favour at Court. I expected that my Lord would have said something concerning begetting a better understanding betwixt my Lord Ranelagh and you having occasion to discourse of him, but he said as good a friend as he was to him he would not pass his word to your Grace for him. Your dispatches henceforth the King would have you direct to Secretary Jenkins, who is very much your friend, and so is Mr. Cook, who is next in the office, and is a very honest man, therefore I desire you would allow him the 100*l.* a year you gave before to one Benson, who has deserved very little what has been given him. Secretary Jenkins will take it very kindly, but in modesty will not write himself. Mr. Gwyn will be employed in my Lord Conway's office, and therefore he hopes you will dispense with his coming over as he intended.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-81, Feb. 1. Whitehall.—His Majesty hath been pleased to command me to remove into another province. Though no province at this time affords anything of satisfaction, yet I reckon it as a great comfort I have in my removal that I do thereby enter into your Grace's more immediate service, there being no man living that hath a deeper veneration than I have for your Grace.

You will, my Lord, receive (probably by this post) a petition of the Earl of Sussex to His Majesty with a reference upon it to your Grace. His Majesty recommends it in consideration of the equity of it to your Grace's favourable report. His Majesty hath likewise declared himself very graciously in favour of Mr. George Weld. He would have him have the

next captain of foot's place that shall fall in the army there. My Lord Arran, I doubt not, hath already given you His Majesty's pleasure in this particular. His Majesty commands me to send your Grace the transcript enclosed, 'tis part of a letter writ from Holland and addressed to His Majesty himself. The King says the writer is of no manner of credit with him ; however, since he names certain persons and places, His Majesty would have your Grace see what is writ and leaves you to do as you see cause.

Here is a wonderful deal of art and industry used to stir up the seamen, the watermen, the hackney coachmen, the suburbs men, to petition that the Parliament may sit here and not at Oxford. The faction is enraged that the bulky I mean the wealthy part of the city, is not more forward in imitating and writing after the Lords Petitioners.

My Lord, I most humbly beg leave to insert here my humble and thankful acknowledgement of my Lord Arran's nobleness and favour towards me. I shall study to deserve it in some measure by my zeal in every thing wherein I may serve him.

VISCOUNT MASSEERENE to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 2. Antrim.—Out of a deep sense of that duty I owe your Grace and the King's service I presume most humbly to acquaint you that I have been informed since I came out of England that there are many Roman Catholic natives lately crept into the army of Ireland, particularly some of those who were recalled from foreign service. And in regard I understand it hath pleased your Grace and Council to order that such Justices and officers of the militia who give ground of suspicion and have wives of the Romish persuasion should be thereby rendered incapable of places in either of those commissions ; I do in the greatest humility mention this to your Grace, whether you will not also please (by your own power as general) to give the same rule concerning the officers and soldiers of His Majesty's army here, and for better discovery of such appoint and command persons in each province and garrison (as you may please to approve) who may as the Lord Lieutenants and Deputy Lieutenants of each county of England usually do from time to time (and now or in a short time by you limited) make inquiry and [] of these and other particulars tending to his Majesty's service, and the truth of the premises, to the end that thereby it may be demonstrated fully that such transgressions are contrary to your Grace's knowledge and special command, so that in all the particular importances of the Government (in this juncture of affairs) you have had a strict regard, which with my humble application for pardon is submitted.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 5. London.—Yesterday at the Council appeared Silvester, Castle and five other, who came out of

Ireland on the account of being witnesses to the Popish plot in Ireland, they all having been examined before by Mr. Justice Warcup and two other Justices of the Peace, declared upon oath they knew nothing of any kind relating to the plot, which they then again swore and desired leave to return again into their own country with money from His Majesty to bear their charges, both which requests are granted them. Two of them likewise deposed that Eustace Comin had told them they should have clothes and money if they would make out what he had sworn, Comin being called in made some excuses and evasions that he only persuaded them to tell all they knew to be truth, but notwithstanding his pretences it did visibly appear he had been tampering with them. Amongst other things this was thought remarkable in the proceedings that Comin producing some letters lately sent out of Ireland to vindicate his reputation, they were all directed to be left for him at Sir Thomas Player's house.

Mr. David Fitzgerald and Mr. Hethrington likewise yesterday brought in their accusations against one another and have copies reciprocally ordered them with time till next Council day to bring in their answers.

A hearing was yesterday intended at the Board between Mr. Edmund Waller (who pretends a promise from the King to succeed Dr. Alestree, lately deceased, in the Provostship of Eton College) and the Fellows of Eton who oppose him as being a layman and not qualified. Counsel appeared on both sides, but neither party being sufficiently prepared with precedents, the cause was put off till Friday sennight next.

My Lord Conway Wednesday last took the oaths of Secretary of State and Privy Councillor, and being at this time both in possession and execution of his office, hath done me the honour to appoint me to attend his lordship, for which reason I humbly beg your Grace's favour to excuse my coming into Ireland to wait upon your Grace according to my intentions and duty and have taken care to prevent any complaints which might be made to your Grace from this side of the water for my absence.

I suppose Mr. George Weld will take care to wait upon your Grace with the order of Council for appointing him and myself to be continued in salary with Sir Charles Meredith, and therefore have not given your Grace the trouble to send my order, it being only a duplicate of that which Mr. Weld hath with him and concerns us both.

ORMOND to VISCOUNT MASSERENE.

1680-1, Feb. 5. Dublin.—I am obliged to your lordship for the information contained in yours of the 2nd of this month concerning the cre[ep]ing of many Roman Catholic natives into the army, but the obligation would have been more useful if you had been pleased to let me know who gave your lordship that information and instanced at least some

officers or soldiers of that kind who have been received into the army, which I conceive you might the more easily have done for that a considerable part of the army is garrisoned and quartered in that province and in your neighbourhood ; nor can I doubt but that when your Lordship received the information you required some instances from the informer, and not receiving satisfaction therein I suppose you would not have given yourself the trouble of the representation you have made, but looked upon it as a calumny cast on the army and Government, as I must believe it to be till instances shall be given. The order of Council mentioned by your lordship concerning Justices of the Peace and militia officers is not yet in writing, and was resolved upon upon occasion of a person then before us, and we were judges of the ground we had to think him unfit to continue a Justice of Peace or a militia officer, and I think we shall reserve that judicature to ourselves, but we shall be always ready to receive any information concerning any man in employment, civil or military, that may tend to the discovery of his disaffection in point of religion, nay we have [long since] encouraged such informations by proclamation, which promises a reward to any whoever shall discover any officer or soldier [of] the army to be a Papist, which we thought might move the Protestants in every troop and company as well as others to detect their officers and fellow soldiers tainted in religion. This is an additional provision in that point to the directions the Commissaries of the Musters have to pass no officer or soldier that shall not produce an authentic certificate of his taking the oath of supremacy and receiving the sacrament within the times required. True it is there may be negligence, collusion, and corruption in the bishop or minister that certifies and in the commissary that musters, but so there may also be in anybody else that shall be employed. In conclusion, I beseech your lordship to make use of your uttermost industry and interest to find out any Papist trusted in the civil or military part of the Government, wherein you will besides serving the King infinitely oblige your lordship's, etc.

EARL OF ARBAN to ORMOND.

1680-81, February 5. London.—There came in yesterday letters from Ireland dated the 30th of the last, but none from your Grace, which I do not much wonder at since my Lord Longford was forced to pump hard to write a short letter, though the news continues still here of great risings in Munster. I know not what was enclosed in your last letter to His Majesty, but he told me the substance of them is very idle. I thought the seal might have been opened, because there was a little scorching of the paper on one side of the seal, but the seal itself was whole enough. I do intend to stay in this kingdom until I see the issue of this Parliament,

but the charge will be too great to carry my wife to Oxford, for now we live here cheaper than I have done anywhere else, and were it not for the family I am forced to keep in Ireland this journey would do me little hurt as to my purse. I intend to send for my coach horses over, for I find I save nothing by their being there, when I compute the charge of hackney coach and chair, which is not to be avoided by myself and my wife, besides the indecency will appear more in the spring than it does now. The Secretaries will take care hereafter that no licences for officers shall be offered to His Majesty's signing, but it shall be as you desire. They discourse still of alterations in the Bedchamber, but that matter has cooled, so that I believe nothing will be done in it. Captain Murray, of the Scots Regiment, goes from hence on Monday next, and if any thing happen to-morrow you shall hear from me by him, for all persons that relate to Ireland, if they have any command or employment there, will scarce be satisfied without my letter to your Grace by them. Justice Warcop has very friendly given me the copies of the examinations he has taken of the witnesses brought over by Owen Murphy, eight of them swear home against Plunkett and some against one Tyrrell, a titular bishop, and that is the sum of what they have deposed.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Feb. 7. Dublin.—You will judge by the copy I send you of my Lord Massereene's letter to me that it is intended to proceed in aspersing the army here as if it had received many Papists, but I hope the time will come when general and false reflections will not take place. If the matter of his letter shall be spread there, possibly my return to it ought to encounter it in as many places as may be. All the marks we have to know and find out Papists by are the oath of supremacy and the sacrament. If they take them and frequent the Church service it is more than most of my Lord Massereene's neighbours, pastors or family will do, which I was about upon occasion of his letter to put him in mind of, but I considered that recrimination is seldom a convincing defence, and that I had a much better at hand. Our latest letters out of England were of the 22nd of January, so that three packets are due and much expectation there is of what that time has produced in Court and city and country elections. In the meantime many reports are raised and invented by conjecture. It will shortly be time to send James into France, but unless I can have for him an approved governor I had rather keep him with me. Much good I have heard of one that travelled with my Lord of Bath's son; his lordship and Sir C. Wyche can give an account of him.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 7. London.—I have this day your Grace's of the 28th and 31st of the last, and when Col. Hungerford

comes hither I don't doubt but I shall get His Majesty's order for the precedence he desires in behalf of himself and his under officers. The enclosed letter I have delivered to the King, which he slights very much upon the account of the person that informs; but my Lord Conway being near, His Majesty has given the paper to him, and will give him the former also, which it seems he neglected. My Lord Sunderland being out of employment, I have given Mr. Secretary Jenkins the letter directed to him and the warrant for swearing the members of the next Parliament. Your Grace will within a short time have an account of what is done in reference to the Scots recruits, the King's orders being sent about them into Scotland a fortnight since. The King has also by his letter given you directions what post they are to have, being allowed when they were here the next place to the Guards. I spoke this day and several times before to His Majesty about filling up our army there, and he still says it shall be done; but now the two Secretaries have promised to be helping in it, and they shall not want the being put in remembrance of it. The remaining part of the Scots Regiment now at Tangier the King does again say shall be speedily sent for. My Lord Burlington has very alarming letters out of Munster from his brother and nephew, Mr. Boyle, which has occasioned the strange printed papers that are published. He desired me to let you know that the English are in great apprehensions in those parts and want powder. I told him that if they did it was their fault, for they might buy out of the stores what proportion they pleased, the officers of the ordnance having sent for powder from hence for that purpose. It will not be amiss to inquire into that matter. There is a print sold about the town wherein you are chiefly concerned and myself next, but it is so ridiculously false that I intend not to make any noise or use endeavours to find out the printer; but if you have a mind at any time to have any letter put out here in print relating to Ireland or yourself I can get it put into one of those news books by the favour of an active Justice of the Peace here who is much your friend; but he has a handsome youth for his son, which son he expects some employment for in Ireland. He is a very likely young man.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 8. Whitehall.—This serves for a covert to two of His Majesty's letters to your Grace. We (though I had the honour to receive from my Lord of Arran this day your Grace's commission to divers peers) do find the warrant that goes herewith necessary to introduce it. We have also prepared and sent a commission for your Grace's hand. The alteration that you will find in the names of the Commissioners is made by His Majesty's special directions. The other letter is in favour of Mr. George Weld for a company of foot.

I cannot by this post send your Grace the remaining part of the Irish depositions, there being an order made to lodge them in the hands of the Attorney General (who is gone off this day to be a Judge in the Common Pleas, Sir Robert Sawyer succeeding to the place of Attorney) in order to make his report upon them, which are material and which not, that the useful witnesses may be retained and the others sent home. The faction is deliberating how to attack His Majesty's Guards, and yet have the laws of their side. They intend to indict them the latter end of this term, then upon their not answering to apprehend some of them, as they walk singly in the streets, and if they give not bail for their good behaviour as well as appearance to let them lie in jail. 'Twill be assigned for a breach of their good behaviour to ride or go in the head of companies or troops of illegal men that go armed *in terrorem populi*. This is their design, besides many more that they still invent and bring forth.

ANONYMOUS MEMORANDUM ON OFFICERS IN IRELAND.

Undated. I landed in Ireland, 27th Sep., 1679, and first I was in the King's and Queen's Counties, where I am much esteemed and known (but not by my own name). I am deemed and taken here to be a Catholic, all whom I found in a very quiet posture, only much grieved at the persecution in England (as they term it). Then I came back into the counties of Wexford and Waterford, where I am a right Independent and so habited, deemed and taken above these ten years (but they know nothing of my late troubles nor my own name), and I have the intrills of all their actings. Here I found the great ones of them in a very confident posture, and after many a prayer, long grace, feasts and, I think, fuddling, too, Major Dennis, of Wexford, asked me plainly if I'd make one with them. I answered when I knew it they should hear my opinion, but obliged myself before them all to secrecy. I shall here beg Your Majesty's pardon as to all degrees of circumstances to avoid tediousness. But in fine I had an oath given me or mighty like an oath, and find that on Wednesday, the 4th of May, next, all the fanatics, which are Oliver's old breed, and most of them in command (which I much wonder at), are all to rise and by a design (laid on purpose) with some few ignorant Irish to fall upon all the Irish and to give out strange things against them as of theft, idolatry, promiscuous marriages, etc., and then to proclaim themselves the Protestant protectors. Now I much and many times have wondered at one thing, that all the Lieutenants of Ireland have continued or rather confirmed and settled such commands of military forces upon those that were notoriously known to be Oliver's only creatures and his immediate officers. This Major Dennis, of Wexford, has had a company of foot this many years and was a captain in Col. Pierson's Regiment that refused to march with General Monk into

England, saying Monk had a King in his belly. And this Dennis and Col. Scott (son to Scott that was hanged), Capt. Tench, one of Oliver's captains, who now commands the country troop, and one John Mitchell, lately taken in and steward to this Duke of Albemarle, are the ringleaders in this county of Wexford. Then for the county of Waterford there are enough, but the chief of them are the two Olands who said once (as 'tis publicly enough known) that they would wash their hands in the Stuarts' blood; and a most grand one is one Capt. Nicolls, who had a troop of horse under Oliver, who professeth openly he will have t'other bout yet, yet is lately made Justice of the Peace, etc. These are the prime leaders and rulers in that county, who backed with infinite of their sect keep a due correspondence with those of the north of Ireland, who are most Scots and Scotch breed and are the northern Presbyterians and fanatics, lusty, able-bodied, hardy and stout men, where one may see three or four hundred at every meeting-house on Sundays; and all the north of Ireland is inhabited with these, which is the populest place of all Ireland by far. They are very numerous and greedy after land. These things have I traced and complied withal to find out the depth and truth of their designs. And further, too, I would have waded and travailed herein had I not suspected a warrant for my apprehension from Dublin; but whether there was one or no I did not stay many days longer in the country, but taking my leave upon pretended business with promise of a timely return I shipped for France 4th, April, 1680, and going to Rouen found a wonderful number of English Roman Catholics, among whom I was very conversant, but heard not one word of any plot, which I much admired at. And in June I shipped for Holland.

Endorsed :—Information given to the King. Received from Mr. Secretary Jenkins, 9 February, 1680-1.

ORMOND to EARL OF CONWAY.

1680-1, Feb. 11. Dublin.—Having received so many fresh demonstrations of your favour and friendship, you cannot doubt but that I very heartily congratulate your Lordship's entrance into the management of affairs for my own sake, for this kingdom's and for the King's. When anything of more than ordinary moment shall happen here or be sent hence I shall write immediately to your Lordship, and I must ask your leave that things of less importance may also be sent you in copies or duplicates, that you may be ignorant of nothing that passes where you have so much interest and knowledge, I wish your lordship all possible satisfaction in your employment.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Feb. 11. Dublin.—Yours of the 25th and 29th of the last and 1st of this month came all at once, and a whole

cargo of prints of all sorts are scattered here; the most important and the most extraordinary is the petition of sixteen Lords and the speech made at the delivery of it. Some have taken upon them to write over the substance of the King's verbal answer, but there is yet no written one of His Majesty come to us. I wish they had come together, since I believe there was ground for a good answer and that the opportunity was not lost. By young Buck I received a letter from Sir James Butler, and something wrapt about with greenwax, and the copy of a Bill put into the Court of Exchequer by my Lady Poyntz, to which I am made a party and must answer. After I have consulted some lawyer Sir James shall have a return from me. When my Lord Burlington was here he desired the remove of the Scottish companies from his town of Youghal; the reason, I think, was that the quartering of so many officers and so few soldiers was more troublesome than profitable to his tenants. But though the rent be his lordship's, yet since the town is the King's and that I am answerable for the security of it, I shall neither now nor in the spring leave it without a competent garrison; and methinks his desire to have it without soldiers agrees not well with the danger, I hear, he says that whole province is in of surprise and invasion. Jack St. Leger's assiduity about the Irish witnesses is a stratagem to be too hard for Barret in the House of Lords if the cause should come to determination there. All dispatches of public importance will from henceforth be directed to Sir Lyonell Jenkins and your letters with them, but when any of moment shall be sent my Lord Conway shall have copies, that he may be the better prepared against their being brought to the consideration of of the Council. I write to him myself this post upon occasion of his being secretary, as I remember his grandfather was. The packet I sent the King shows that we also have a Lord of Clare in this kingdom, and that he has set up for a zealous Protestant influenced no doubt from that side, and if he will be loud and violent enough it will not be remembered or taken notice of that since he became Protestant he made his wife a Papist and left her in a nunnery in France, that he has been in Spain and there went to Mass, that his son is or was page to the French King, with whom he treated when he was in the Prince of Orange's service, and shamed me that recommended him. I give you this account of that packet, finding by a letter from Sir Robert Walsh that by accident letters from my Lord of Clare to my Lord Shaftesbury came to his hands or his sight. Whereunto I should not have given credit upon Sir Robert's affirmation if Clare's letter to me had not rendered it more than probable. In short it is marvellous to me that there should be a Popish Plot founded upon French assistance (as no man dares doubt but there was) and that his Lordship should have no hand in it, no knowledge of it. He was in Spain and France if I mistake not about

the time Oates says he was at Salamanca. He left his wife in a nunnery and his son in the French King's domestic service. He came over hither, as I think will appear, just when the design was to be put in execution. He is a man of known courage, conduct and intrigue, of a broken and indeed desperate fortune, burdened with a title very unsuitable to it. He is of a noble family, of great esteem and numerous dependance among the Irish Papists, and he is seated on the county of Clare side, a transplanted country, and therefore full of Irish, upon the mouth of the river of Limerick, the most proper place in Ireland to introduce an enemy and their fleets, who being in that river may choose on which side to land. Let all this be put together and let any reasonable man judge whether a fitter person or a more likely in all qualifications could have been created to enter into such a conspiracy than my Lord of Clare, and whether his present ostentation of zeal to the Protestant religion, when the Plot is discovered and frustrated, can mitigate the just suspicion that may with charity be had of him. Perhaps he is not worth all those remarks. Yet if his letter to me shall come to be made use of in order to asperse the King, these qualifications and transactions of his may not be impertinent. Which, therefore, you may impart to His Majesty at his leisure, and by his permission to Mr. Secretary Jenkins, the matter being so written that it may be severed from the rest of the letter.

LORD CLARE to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 11. Tarbert.—I had the honour of your Grace's letter of the 22nd of the last month, and I will not fail to obey your Grace's commands in using my uttermost endeavours to discover the Papists' designs against His Majesty and Government. I find that the friar Brady is yet in this kingdom. I have employed people to apprehend him, and if they do take him I know it will not be to much purpose as to any discoveries he will make, for he will sooner burn than discover anything which may prejudice the interest of the Roman Catholic religion; and to my knowledge they have taught the generality of their people to deny the truth (though upon oath) when the asserting of it may be destructive to the interest of their religion. This doctrine joined with their advantage in concealing what plots they had afoot these years past keeps many of the chiefest among them from making discoveries. They have yet hopes to be the prevailing party, and whilst such hopes do last it is not likely any considerable person of them will discover. I find the people are possessed with an opinion that the King, your Grace, and Council, do issue what proclamations soever to suppress Popery, yet both Papists and most Justices that should put the laws in execution do believe them to be but matter of form. Nothing can undeceive them but His Majesty's appear-

ing to be advised by his Parliament, which will frustrate for ever all hopes of Popery's reigning, and I doubt not but many of their gentry here will immediately thereupon be ingenious and discover what by the threats of their priests and prosperous opinion of their party was kept secret hitherto. I give your Grace with all humility and submission this information, as I can judge of the temper of the people in this part of the kingdom, with whom I converse in all humours. And as I conceive it the interest of all Protestants in Ireland to petition your Grace to move His Majesty for the sitting of the next Parliament in England from the 21st of next month until an effectual course be taken to secure us and our posterity in this kingdom from the designs of Papists, so I make it most humbly my particular petition to your Grace, to whose great wisdom and commands I shall ever submit.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Feb. 11. Dublin.—I have writ to my Lord Conway upon the subject of his access to the Secretary's office to the effect I told you I would, and but that I thought it not proper upon that occasion to intermix anything else I would have desired him to assure Mr. Seymour that as I have long had a great value for him, so I have now as great a desire to entertain a particular friendship and all proper correspondence with him. The times and difficulties we are in require steadiness and industry, and if those qualifications be taught us from those most concerned to have them there may be hope of getting out of the briars. In short assure Mr. Seymour of my concurrence in the service of the Crown and of my service and friendship to him.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 12. Whitehall.—I continue to trouble your Grace with the depositions of the Irish witnesses as they lie before the Council. Sir Robert Sawyer is made Attorney General in the room of Sir Creswell Levinge, who is preferred to be one of the Justices of the Common Pleas. The elections are generally the same that they were last Parliament; where they have changed 'tis for the worse. We expected this day, being the last day of this term, some bloody presentment either against his R.H., or against the King's Guards, but none was made. Sir Gilbert Gerard and some few gents. more did yesterday present themselves to the Grand Jury of Middlesex attending the King's Bench, beseeching them to give the thanks of the gentry and freeholders of the county to the petitioning Lords. The day is not yet set for His Majesty's moving for Oxford.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 12. Whitehall.—Yesterday Mr. David Fitzgerald and Mr. Hethrington brought in their articles against

one another to the Council in due form ; the second article against Hethrington being for casting an odium upon His Majesty and Council in not taking notice of a Bull formerly produced by him to the Board, which he reported did discharge some Irish priests from their allegiance to His Majesty, but was not minded either by His Majesty or Council ; this was fully proved upon him, to which he endeavoured to make excuses and evasions, but was severely reprimanded by my Lord Chancellor. Barnard Dennis had likewise proved upon him that he had sworn before Justice Warcup, and at several other times with oaths and imprecations, that he knew nothing relating to Her Majesty or the Duke, and after that by an information taken before the Lord Mayor, accused the Queen and Duke with knowledge of the Plot. These were the material things proved, though a great many wrangling and harsh words were used on both sides. Mr. Hethrington would have gone upon the proof of his accusation, but the Board, being tired with their quarrel, it is ordered they shall both answer one another at Westminster Hall. It is referred to Mr. Serjeant Maynard and the rest of the King's Counsel to peruse the informations of the witnesses, prepare the evidence and adjust all things in order to the trial of Oliver Plunket and other gentlemen which came out of Ireland, and to consider whether the raising money with an intent to levy war be an overt act of treason within the Statute of Edward the 3rd, and to report their opinions therein to His Majesty in Council.

Sir Creswell Leventz, Attorney General, hath his writ to be a Serjeant, in order to succeed Sir William Ellis in the place of Judge, and Sir Robert Sawyer is to be Attorney General in his room. The Lord Wootton's patent is under the seal for the title of Earl of Bellamont in Ireland. My Lord Bodmin is likewise to be called up to the House of Peers by writ ; some others are named, but I do not find any certainty in it. Sir John Davies acquaints me he is very shortly leaving England, who will give your Grace a more full account of what I mentioned in my late letter concerning Mr. Seymour.

Postscript.—Since the making up my letter to your Grace I received an information that the Grand Jury of Westminster have this day brought in their verdicts upon the persons following for these crimes :

High Treason.—Robert Ely, John Butler, Paul Strange, Lawrence Sulyvane, Wm. Bradley, Sir John Davies, Wm. Finch, John Shatall.—Witnesses.—Capt. Shirley, Macnamara, Sampson, Ivy, etc.

Misdemeanours.—Da. Fitzgerald.

Ignoramus.—Primate Plunket, Sir John FitzGerald.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 12. London.—All that I have to trouble your Grace with this post is that I was informed by Justice

Warcop that the Grand Jury have found the bills this day against my Lord Tyrone, Plunket, and the others that are in prison upon David Fitzgerald's account. They have also found a bill against Sir John Davys for treason, though all that he is accused of can amount to no more than misdemeanour if proved. It was the intention of the leading men of the jury, Sir William Waller being one, to have indicted you and me together with the Queen and the Duke, but the witnesses would not be prevailed with to swear home to that point, though David Fitzgerald proved yesterday at the Board that they had been tampered with by Hethrington and one Dennis. What to advise Sir John Davys to I am to seek in, and he is much confounded at the proceedings, as I cannot blame him for, the like having never been done to anyone before in his station. I am told there is a committee appointed to take the state of Ireland into consideration. Upon the discourse I had with the secretaries before His Majesty, your Grace will, I hope, make some observations upon what my Lord Anglesey has writ in answer to my Lord Castlehaven's memoirs.

PRIMATE BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 12.—Your Grace have been so infinitely obliging by that handsome character you have been pleased to recommend Sir Wm. Davys, that I doubt not of its success by the appearance of my Lord Arran. I have, therefore, presumed to send you enclosed draught, if your Grace shall think fit to transmit it to Mr. Secretary Jenkins with your Grace's letter, which I return to your Grace here inclosed.

Directions shall be sent over for the attendance on this business and to discharge the fees.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Feb. 12. Dublin.—Upon the death of Sir Robert Booth I have once more ventured to recommend Sir William Davys his promotion, my Lord Chief Justice Keating declining the preferment, and I have done it in the terms you will find in the inclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Secretary Jenkins. If the letter should come to be imparted further than I mean it should, and that perhaps some I do not mean to reflect upon should take themselves to be concerned, you have liberty to declare that I mean my Lord Privy Seal and my Lord of Essex and no other. My concern for Sir Wm. Davys is out of my steadfast belief of his loyalty and mettle as long as he shall be supported, and he that looks for more from much the greater part of lawyers will be disappointed, and as the world goes it is well if they may be depended upon so far.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 15. London.—I was yesterday and this morning before a Committee of Council appointed to look

into the posture of affairs in Ireland, and was desired to bring along with me such papers as I had by me relating to the condition the army and stores were in. I told them that when I was before them above two months ago I informed them all I knew, which was that the stores were in an ill condition, and that many of the soldiers of the army were unserviceable, all which you had several times represented to the Secretaries and Lords of the Treasury. The report they intend to make to the King is that 1,000l. barrels of powder should be sent over, and that orders should be sent by His Majesty for your raising in Ireland a thousand men to supply the vacancies of the army, and that you should send over such officers as you think properest for to be employed about such an undertaking, at the cheapest rates you can. The money for that purpose must be had out of the reducements lately made, for there cannot one penny be had from hence, and for the powder it must be paid out of that fund too, but a competent time and instalments will be granted for that. Much fault was found that no authentic account of the stores was to be had. George Legge produced one of the 31st July last left him by my Lord Longford, but signed by nobody. Complaint was also made that the militia was not enough looked after and that they wanted arms, etc. That arose from letters out of Munster. Pray let as brief an account as the matter will bear be sent over in relation to proceedings in that affair; for my Lord Privy Seal is very brisk upon that point, saying that the Irish did pretend there was a massacre intended upon them when they began theirs in '41. It was also observed that you did not answer all the points of the letter His Majesty writ to you (or was writ by his command) when the committee sat last upon those affairs, the proclamation or printed order being all that they know was done upon it.

There are some of the Irish witnesses now that will swear that Mr. Hethrington and Sir William Waller would have tempted them to swear against the Queen, Duke and your Grace and Lord Chancellor, with reflections also upon His Majesty. A great deal of this was proved already at the Board against them, upon which His Majesty has ordered my Lord Chancellor here to look into the matter and give order for the prosecution of them, and I am advised by some to bring an action of conspiracy against them in your name, but I dare not venture upon it, the persons I must deal with to prove this being men that I dare not rely upon, but if the King's Attorney prosecute the matter keenly, it will in my judgment do the business as well, and I will give him a fee if necessary.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 15. Whitehall.—The Committee for the Affairs of Ireland sat this day in order to dispose of the money that will accrue by the suspension made in November last as shall

be best for His Majesty's service. Among other things that lay before my Lords they found a letter of his Majesty's of the 16th of November last directing your Grace to call the military officers to their commands, with several other intimations of His Majesty's intention and pleasure. The letter goes herewith enclosed, and my Lords have commanded me to desire your Grace to let them know with your best convenience what you have done upon it. I was able to tell their lordships that I had seen a proclamation in print relating to the execution of the first part of His Majesty's letter; and that I doubted not but that your Grace had done or was doing your part in the other points of it. I will not anticipate your Grace's answer to any things that my Lords of the Committee are like to lay before you for your advice, as, first, how to make the militia on that side more useful; and, secondly, what you will judge to be the best course for levying the recruits intended, and for conducting and defraying of them till they be got over? Their lordships will desire an authentic account of the remains of stores, we having none perfect since '74. The Commissioners of the Ordnance were present, and are ordered to bring in their proposals for furnishing the stores. They say they have already 9,000*l.* worth of stores in Ireland, and have not reimbursed themselves of above 800*l.* all this while. My Lord of Arran assisted at the debate, and will (I doubt not) give your Grace a more perfect account of it than I can.

ORMOND TO VISCOUNT MASSERENE.

1680-1, Feb. 15. Dublin.—I have received your lordship's of the 9th instant with the enclosed informations of dangerous words spoken at several times by Cormack O'Hagan and other persons. I desire your lordship would either yourself take the examination of the said Cormack and of such others as were said to have been in his company and may be found, or direct the Justices of Peace next adjacent to do it; and, having examined the persons accused, to confront them with the accusers, whereby possibly further discovery may be made, or what is deposed confirmed, and then to send me the examinations and what further information may be given. Particularly I conceive Alexander Brenan and his wife should be examined touching the words spoken by Cormack O'Hagan and such others as there shall be cause to suspect may be secured either in jail or upon good bonds for their appearing at the next assizes, as your lordship or the Justices of Peace shall judge to be most proper. Having again perused your lordship's of the second of this month I conceive the expression you used does not restrain the Roman Catholic natives that were said to have crept into the army to such as were recalled from foreign service, but that Roman Catholic natives in general and particularly some of them that served abroad were gotten into the army, which seems to me to imply that other

Roman Catholic natives were likewise got in beside those that were recalled from foreign service. That all such as served in foreign parts or even in France are disaffected to the Protestant religion may be too hasty a judgment, nor will the suspicion of any city justify it, much less will it follow that because they came in great numbers to Chester that therefore they are received into the army here. The single instance your lordship gives of Marcus O'Conlan, though it be not absolutely convincing, being but the bare assertion of a person accused for a spy, yet that there might be no colour for calumny I would have given order to have him turned out of the army if I had sooner known he had been in it; and I shall be the more careful and strict herein, in regard it appears that Jesuits can get into pulpits in meeting houses and conventicles, and that it may be as easy for Popish lay soldiers to get into armies if great care be not taken to prevent it. It will, therefore, behove your lordship, and it is your proper work to be careful in general as you are a Privy Councillor, and particularly where you have authority to govern and command, to call upon the Commissioners of Array and the officers of the militia to put and keep themselves in a readiness to serve the King and preserve themselves according to their respective commands and instructions, and to be very vigilant that none be of the militia but such as have taken or shall take the oaths of supremacy and allegiance and the blessed sacrament according to the use of the Church of Ireland, whilst I and the subordinate officers of the army do the same on our part: these duties being on all hands carefully observed and performed we may by the blessing of God hope to keep the Government in safety and the kingdom in peace, notwithstanding suggestions and general rumours.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 19. Whitehall.—His Majesty's letter that goes herewith enclosed was first intended to come from the Council to your Grace, but upon second thoughts of the importance of it I was commanded to prepare it for His Majesty's hand. The proceedings to contrive an indictment of treason against Sir John Davys begin to appear very enormous. They will come to light in a few days; when the discovery is perfected I shall transmit it to your Grace. In the meanwhile I am extremely concerned that Sir John Davys cannot be relieved against the processes that go out upon such occasions but by a *nolle prosequi*. His Majesty expressed this day a gracious sense of his displeasure at this insolence that was acted upon his servant. Our elections are in a manner the same. I do not find we diminish in that small number of good men we had. Here and there we add to them rather than lose them. One would imagine that the humour does something abate; as it is, and indeed must be, in violent motions, a good hearty reform with us at Court would work a strange turn to a settlement and a security to our religion and the monarchy.

ORMOND to COL. JOHN FITZPATRICK.

1680-1, Feb. 19. Dublin.—I have seen yours of the 8th of this month to my wife, wherein are two particulars most proper for me to say something to. That there have been arts and endeavours sued to raise distrusts and the ill consequences of them betwixt the person you mention and me we have both been sensible of for a good while, and advantage to that end has been sought for from the observation that friends and enemies have not been common to us both, as often it does not fall out that they are to men that have lived so long in the world as we have, and in such changeable times and considerable employments. I am sure the attempt has had no success with me, and I persuade myself not with him. The two persons you named on my part have never yet gone about to give me ill impressions of my friend, discouraged perhaps by a belief that it would be in vain. If they declare themselves unsatisfied with him on their own account I would help it if I could, but it cannot be reasonably expected I should declare war against them, and the same justice and no more I expect on his part. My son Arran forgot to give me any notice of your *éclaircissement* with the other person you mention, but the knowledge of it comes time enough, since having once offered at a good understanding and correspondence betwixt us when he was in a station more proper for me to seek it than he is now, and having received no kind of return, I conceive the repetition at this time would have no better success and therefore I do not desire to be named to him unless he gives the occasion.

ORMOND to JOHN FELL, Bishop of Oxford.

1680-1, Feb. 19. Dublin.—Yours of the 15th of the last month came not to my hands till the 18th of this. By what accident it was so long in the way I cannot tell, but so many other things being out of order it is not strange the post office should be so too.

That University has been the residence or retreat of Kings and Parliaments in time of war and pestilence, and tho' (God be praised) neither of those judgments drive them thither at this time, yet I hope their meetings there may tend to the preservation of peace and the establishment of future prosperity. I do not doubt but that their reception will be suitable to the good affection, conduct and renown of the place, your lordship having so much of direction in it.

My grandson improves visibly in his person. He grows taller and leaner, and I keep him to college hours of rising. I can brag little of his proficiency in letters, in exercises he does tolerably well. Till I find a governor to my mind I mean as well as I can to perform some part of the office myself and keep him with me. I am in great care to serve my Lord Courcy; in times so unsettled, the circumstances of his age and fortune considered, I was inclined to have brought him hither, but here he will find or be found by more and by nearer relations.

than at Court ; and in travel, if he had means for it, he will be more exposed to perversion. All the resolution I can for the present come to is that he stay at Oxford till the end of the first session of Parliament, upon the resolution of which much more depends than what concerns him or your Lordship's most affectionate and most humble servant,

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, Feb. 19. Dublin.—Yours of the 5th, 7th, and 12th, came all together. There is no doubt but that my Lord of Clare or anything he can say, as he has carried himself in the world, would at any other time signify little, but I am deceived if in this conjuncture some pernicious use be not made of him and of his letters. My Lord Chamberlain knows him well and I wish he might see what he has written. I take it for a good sign that no more is made of it. I suppose the Grand Jury had not before them the examinations taken against O. Plunket ; if they had, sure they would not have returned *Ignoramus* upon his bill. You shall do well to cherish the good inclinations of the Justice. I confess I wonder how my Lord Burlington thinks it his interest to procure and spread abroad such hot and incredible alarms out of Munster, and in the meantime is so ill informed as that the English in those parts cannot furnish themselves with ammunition, for so his intimation implies, or it can signify nothing, when it is well known to his brother that the enclosed proportions have been at Cork above a year and half and were sent thither for the use of the militia and other Protestants. It were good to know if he would tell from whom he had his information, but I doubt he will not.

Capt. Murray is landed but without any letter from you. He has brought a list of officers to be some placed and some advanced in the regiment. I wish there were soldiers in proportion. I will do all I can to have those companies filled. I have read over my Lord of Anglesey's remarks on my Lord Castlehaven's memoirs, and to my thinking never saw antagonists met upon more equal terms for the seasonableness of the argument, the mistakes in matter of fact (to give it a soft name), and for the incoherent deductions. I confess I am afraid to enter into a contest in print with such a man as my Lord of Anglesey, a man I have seen detected in public of misinformation and mean artifices for sordid sums and yet never blush at the matter, but appear the next day as brisk and confident as his favourite Thornhill when convicted of forgery in an open full court. But, since it is the King's sense, something shall be said ; though I can hardly vindicate my own actings but I must reflect upon those of a numerous and considerable party in conjunction with whom he was in rebellion.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 19. London.—I have your Grace's of the 7th with the enclosed copy of a letter from my Lord Massereene

and your answer. Your report of the army's having Papists in it has been here a good while ago and has been sufficiently answered upon all occasions, but I believe that lord was the occasion of the report then, tho' his advice to you is but lately. I am infinitely troubled for Sir John Davys upon a double account, first because he is persecuted chiefly upon your account, next because he thinks that if he had not come over upon my letter the Parliament would have let him alone, and consequently the Bill of Indictment had not been found against him; but I am sure if I had not answered for him in the House that he would come over upon my intimation of what was then moved in the House, he had been sent for by order of their Lordships, and that perhaps in custody. We have some hopes that the indictment against him will be quashed, the King having given direction to his Attorney General and others of his learned counsel to look well into the matter, for his Ministers of State here may be served in the same kind, if indictments of treason be found for the King without any of his learned counsel's prosecution. So many of your nephews and near relations going for France at this time makes a great noise with us here, for what is published in Harris his news book is from a letter writ by Mr. Boyle to his uncle Burlington, though his Lordship never intended, as he says, it should appear in print. I herewith send your Grace a copy of a petition given me yesterday by one of the parties concerned. It is against Sir William Davys and aimed at you in the bottom. My Lord Ward ordered the sending it to me, because he was informed I had somewhat to do in the county palatine. I knew not how better to inform him of the designs against him than by sending this under your cover.

ORMOND to EARL OF CONWAY.

1680-1, Feb. 20. Dublin.—I understand by my son Arran that some letters and papers concerning our Irish Lord of Clare have been by His Majesty put into your lordship's hands. I therefore think it proper for me to send you his last, which is a reply to the answer I sent to his first. Your lordship will observe that he persists in his advice to have me interpose with the King for the sitting of the Parliament in order to those popular ends he mentions. Now tho' he has sufficiently shown that he is a man prepared for any change that he hopes to mend his condition by, and so may of himself put on the zeal he professes, yet I am persuaded he proceeds not at this time without direction out of England, from whence I conclude it is intended that some use shall be made of him and his letters in a fit conjuncture. In this I am confirmed by what Sir Robert Walsh writ to me, not because he writ it, but because what he writ is of itself very probable, and that the persons he speaks of are like to be the correspondents. I have sent my son Arran some remarks upon that lord's

course of life which your lordship may call for ; more may be found upon inquiry. If the trouble I have given the King and now your lordship be impertinent let it be imputed to the constitution of the times, when things more frivolous and persons much more inconsiderable have great weight laid upon them, of which the finding of a Bill of indictment of high treason against our Secretary of State, Sir John Davys, is an extraordinary instance. My Lord Granard read a few but very obliging words to me out of a late letter of your lordship's to him. What I have said upon the first notice given me of your access to the employment I can but repeat, what remains being only to make it good, as I shall by all the manifestations I can give of my being your Lordship's, etc.

EARL OF CONWAY to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 22. Whitehall.—I have ever acknowledged myself infinitely obliged to your Grace for your favours upon all occasions, and must now do it particularly for the honour of your letter of the 11th instant. If the King hath placed me in a station that can make me any way serviceable to your Grace I am sure it is one of the chiefest satisfactions I shall receive by it. My inclinations were such in the privatest capacity, and the earliest of my endeavours were to give your Grace assurance of it by my Lord of Arran when I entered upon my present employment. 'Tis true the affairs of Ireland do always pass by the eldest secretary, but the good correspondence that is and ever will be between Mr. Secretary Jenkins and myself will at least give me the opportunity of being your Grace's solicitor in all your affairs and all your commands.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 22. London.—I had late on Saturday night your Grace's letters of the 11th and 12th instant and showed His Majesty that part of your letter which concerned the Irish Lord, a copy of which I have left with Mr. Secretary Jenkins by his order, that when occasion serves proper use may be made of it, for I find the King has no great reverence for that noble peer. My Lord Burlington's desire was to have the Scots companies removed from his town, and any other sent in their room, but he is not fond of having above two companies at most. Mr. Seymour is not yet come to town, but I showed your letter to my Lord Conway, who will bring us together when he arrives. Jack St. Leger, I am afraid, will be found to have tampered farther with the witnesses and Ingoldsby than was necessary for that work he has in hand against Barrett.

The King has complied with your recommendation of Sir William Davys and the warrant is already signed by His Majesty as the Secretary will inform you. I told His Majesty

that he might remember who they were that hindered his preferment before, and that was no small inducement to him to do the matter now with expedition, but your Grace will find by the petition I sent over last post that he will be attacked in Parliament, and this preferment, I believe, will hasten it rather than hinder it; I hope you have your eye upon some able man to succeed him in the County Palatine, for I am much against his keeping both, or having Mr. Herbert in his place.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 22. Whitehall.—I no sooner laid your Grace's recommendation of Sir Wm. Davys before His Majesty, but His Majesty was graciously pleased to declare it was sufficient to satisfy him, and to give order that a letter should be drawn for his Royal signature, which letter was signed the same day (that is Sunday) and goes herewith enclosed. His Majesty, when he was told upon what interest it was that Sir Wm. Davys was not promoted when your Grace recommended him last, was pleased to infer that that was a good reason why he should now be considered and sped.

My Lord, I take leave to forbear addressing myself to His Majesty about the Post Office till I have first spoken with several persons (as my Lord the Earl of Arran, Mr. Hyde and Mr. Frowd) from whom I may possibly learn some particulars that may be fit to propose by way of remedy. I will at the same time inform His Majesty of your Grace's reflexions upon that extract of a letter that had been writ to His Majesty and that I sent you some while since by his command.

Mr. Attorney's report to the King is not yet perfected, the rest of the King's Counsel having not had time enough to attend it, but it seems that it will affect some men (their names I cannot yet tell) with having entered into a downright conspiracy to impeach the Queen, the Duke and your Grace with high treason. By the stat. of 35th H. VIII. c. 2 the King hath his option in trying treasons committed out of the realm, either to try them at the King's Bench or else by Commission of Oyer and Terminer in any county that he shall limit. It is Mr. Attorney's opinion that the King should in Sir John Davys's case proceed to an option and choose the latter way; that is direct the trial to be before Commissioners of Oyer and Terminer in Surrey, Oxford, or any other county where an impartial jury may be had. This course appears hitherto to be most advisable for Sir John Davys, for whom all good men are very much concerned, and I should think myself very happy if I were able to serve him in this present occasions, nor shall I (as long as I am free myself, which I do not expect should be long) omit any occasion to do right to his innocency. The King's letter for Sir Wm. Davys is

taken up by a person particularly employed to take care of it, so that it comes not (as was intended) in your Grace's packet.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 26. Whitehall.—I am in dispute whether I should beg your Grace's pardon for my not writing oftener, or for troubling your Grace so often with letters that have so little of importance in them, that being my particular case at this time. The last Council day there was a debate concerning the means of giving relief to Sir John Davys in the present persecution that hangs over him, at which time, though His Majesty and the Board were all sensible of the many hardships he lay under in relation to his trial, yet no way could possibly be found out other than to expedite his trial here at the King's Bench the beginning of the next term.

John Moyer, Duffy, and Gormly came to the Council to accuse Hethrington of endeavouring to persuade them and others to swear against the Queen, the Duke, and your Grace. They made oath of it, but coming late the full hearing was put off till the next Council day; His Majesty and the Board inclining after the full hearing the matter to order Mr. Attorney General to prosecute Hethrington upon the said informations. There was likewise a long hearing at the Board between the inhabitants of Bermudas and the company in defence of their Governor, Sir John Heydon, the result of which was a *quo warranto* is ordered to be brought against the charter of the company.

His Majesty hath declared his intention of leaving London on the 14th March, and yesterday in Council had the Justices of Peace of Middlesex before him, to whom he gave in charge to be very careful in his absence of the peace within their limits and to see the laws put in execution, and particularly that of the 15th of his reign, wherein it makes it *præmunire* to say the King is inclined to Popery, with other words which are by that Act made treason, and yet are too often made use of.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 26. London.—Sir John Davys his friends have attempted twice in Council to get His Majesty to do something on his behalf, but I find the Privy Council will not venture the advising any thing extraordinary; so that he must either undergo his trial in the common way or else within two terms will be outlawed of treason, if he submit not himself; and what to advise his lady on his behalf is very difficult, though without doubt if he appeared and were sure of justice the indictment ought to be quashed, for if all that is sworn against him were proved, as we are informed of the matter, it cannot amount to more than misdemeanour, but by law an indictment can't be quashed but by the party's

pleading to it himself. Thus to my great grief stands his business. Sir Robert Stephens has already got such an interest in Hampshire, where he has purchased an estate, that he stands for Parliament man for the town of Portsmouth against George Legge, and Legge is afraid he will carry it. I have sent my Lord Longford a paper concerning Needwood Forest. Pray let me have your commands about the matter, for tho' I find the King has no great reverence for Ned Vernon, yet he deserves well from your Grace. Little Drake has a petition ready to put in to the House of Commons when they meet, complaining of yours and the Board's injustice to him, and arbitrary proceedings in the matter in difference between him and the Farmers. It were necessary a brief of those proceedings should be transmitted.

EARL OF ARLINGTON to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 26. Whitehall.—I did not make haste to acknowledge the honour of your Grace's of Jan. 3rd, because I have met nothing since that you could read or I write with any sort of satisfaction. On the 12th March His Majesty goes to Windsor to pass two nights there, and on the 14th overtakes the Queen upon the road to accompany her into Oxford. What we shall do there or how long we shall stay there God only knows. I am persuaded neither of the parties does, and I think as little whether we shall agree or fall out for a further time, there being reasons and transactions on both sides capable of making either conclusion probable. Things bearing this aspect towards my eyes, your Grace will forgive me if I affirm nothing.

My cousin Bennet was in town this last term, but came not at me, neither would he let Mr. Charlton know where he lay, which is a sign he is yet under correction at home. Our part is to expect what will be said to us the next time, instead of asking or proposing, which if it be worth the considering your Grace shall be troubled with it.

My Lord of Bath tells me Mr. Durel is not desirous to engage in any new governments, but considering the man is very valuable in that capacity I have desired the Dean of Windsor to write to him. When I have that answer we shall know what we have to trust to, and if it be a perfect negative cast about for another.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, Feb. 26. Whitehall.—I am very much concerned that I can write nothing to your Grace that can be acceptable touching the proceedings relating to Sir John Davys. 'Tis the general opinion that he should undergo his trial, and if the ordinary precautions be used in calling for the sheriff's book, we cannot but have a reasonable jury. The sessions for Middlesex are this day over without presenting either the Guards or His Royal Highness. The King sent for the Justices

of Middlesex to appear before him in Council last night. They were all reckoned upon by the King as very worthy men. The King spoke excellently to them.

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, March 1. Dublin.—Yours of the 15th, 19th and 22nd I have not answered. In the enclosed copy of mine to Mr. Secretary Jenkins you will find much of what I can for the present say to the matters spoken of at the committee, and by that time I shall be able to say more, I doubt they will not be at leisure to consider it. However, the best account I am able to give shall be prepared. Your mentioning my Lord of Anglesey's being of the committee puts me in mind to ask whether he may not deny the little book to be his, or say that it was printed without his order or consent, and in the last place whether His Majesty desires it should be answered. If he does it cannot be made so soon nor so short as may be thought, for I had rather say nothing to it than not enough to stop his mouth. Mr. Secretary Jenkins in his last letter tells me the discovery of a conspiracy to accuse the Queen, the Duke and me of high treason was in the hands of the Attorney and others of the King's Counsel, but could not then tell me the names of the conspirators or of those that detect them. I do not expect that credit will be given to it by the prevailing party, much less that justice can be had. If anywhere complaint is to be made I think it should be in the Lords' House, for to expect reparation from a London jury in such a case I take to be vain. I have heard no more from my Lord Massereene upon the old subject since my last to him, of which, I think, there was a copy sent you. But it is now found that many of the common soldiers among the foot have Popish wives, and I believe it to be true. It were better it were not so, but so it has been in all Lieutenants' times, and how now to help it or prevent the clamour it may occasion I know not, unless we had the recruits mentioned, which might do it for a time. But unless there were English women to be had for them it would not last long, for those recruits would get them some women or other in a short time.

It was impossible to foresee what has befallen Sir John Davys. His staying here would not have prevented it, for we see divers that are here are in the same case, and by the way I wonder nothing is said of them from the King and Council, because I am of opinion when the Parliament meets they will not be forgotten. I find the bringing Sir John off is under consideration. I knew only of my nephew John Butler's going out of the kingdom, who, having quit his command in France upon expectation of serving the King against the French, and having nothing to live upon, is gone again to begin his fortune. As I remember it passed into a vote that something should be prepared to banish all considerable Papists

out of England, and sure if it were good for England it is more so for Ireland. There was a good despatch in the promotion of Sir Wm. Davys. His letter came last night, and I signed his warrant this morning. I presume it will not stay long at the Seal. He is in his circuit. I agree that it is not fit he should hold his place in Tipperary, but I cannot put Mr. Herbert by the succession without affronting him in a high degree. I design Mr. Worth to succeed Herbert, and Turner him. I suppose the negotiation managed by Mr. Charlton with Mr. Bennet is wholly mortified, having heard nothing of it, and I am told my Lord of Bath's son and his governor are not yet returned. Till he comes, or till I find one I may upon sight and discourse approve of, I mean to keep James with me and execute the place myself.

Buck's son came hither with a very unreasonable expectation and request. I own his father was a very honest faithful servant, and that I thought so may appear by the enclosed computation of what he got by being so, which I send you that you may satisfy anybody that may doubt it.

PETITION OF GRAND JURY OF CLARE TO LORD LIEUTENANT.

1680-1, March 1.—To his Grace the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The humble petition of the Lord Viscount Clare and of the Justices of the Peace and Grand Jury at the Assizes held upon the first of March in the county of Clare in Innish, 1680.

That your petitioners do find the dissolution of the last Parliament in England has encouraged the Papists in Ireland to as great insolence as the sitting of the Parliament gave them terror and reason to submit to the Government.

That whilst there is not a Parliament sitting in England it cannot be expected any great discoveries can be made of the Popish horrid Plot, which was to destroy His Majesty and all His Majesty's subjects of this kingdom as well as in England; the Papists having taken an opinion (how unjustly soever it is) that they are favoured, and that what orders or proclamations are issued to suppress Popery are but matter of form not to be executed, as the world has seen hitherto, and as if the magistrates were likewise of their opinion, for who will be forward to punish those he thinks are favoured or who will leave a party he believes will govern.

Therefore, that our magistrates may be encouraged to do their duty and that all discouragement may be given to Popery, we most humbly pray your Grace to move His Majesty that the Parliament may sit in England upon the 21st of this month and continue until an effectual course be taken to secure the Protestants of this kingdom and their posterity from Popish designs, which will be easy when by that resolution of His Majesty the fountain is made clear, most of the youth in Ireland will undoubtedly receive wholesome streams and soon conform to the Church and laws,

which will secure us and our posterity from the apparent dangers we now are in.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Clare.

W. Hickman, Henry Lee, Hen. Ivers.

Grand Jury.

John Gore, foreman; John Colpoys. Tho. Hickman, Tho. Boucher, Mountyfort Westroppe, Robert Cole, Don O'Bryen, D. O'Bryen, Augustine FitzGerald, Hen. Hickman, Rawley Newdegate, Ja. Fitzgerald, Nicho. Devereux, Ja. McDaniell, Joh. Bennis.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 1. Whitehall.—I have the honour of a letter from your Grace of the 19th past, which His Majesty was pleased this morning to hear distinctly read to him.

It is a Justice of Peace named Mr. Warcup (a very active man) that gave His Majesty the extract I sent your Grace of a letter pretended to be written (by no ill-willer of your Grace) out of Ireland. He received it from one Manning that belongs to the Six Clerks' Office in Chancery, to whom it seems it was addressed from that side. Warcup I know, and by him I'll endeavour to trace it to the writer. However, His Majesty is very well satisfied with the answer you are pleased to give upon the several calumnies. The depositions I took leave to send your Grace were transcripts of what I found in the hands of the Clerks of the Council; seeing the omission I'll endeavour to supply it.

The alarms that come hither out of Ireland are very extravagant and (which makes them less heeded) are very frequent, but whether they come (most part) out of Munster, or from elsewhere, I cannot yet tell; but here is a great family that those alarms are said to come from and that they have it in letters out of Ireland. His Majesty is pleased to leave your Grace wholly to yourself as to the pretensions of Mr. George Weld, and is very well contented those engagements you are under should be complied with in the first place. In the meanwhile Mr. Weld must have patience, but whether he should have notice of this His Majesty's pleasure from your Grace or from me is a matter of form that I must beg your Grace to direct I may be instructed in.

Your Grace's suit that His Majesty's pleasure for the exempting of some particular persons from bearing their share in the suspension intended may be declared and ordered in full Council as the suspension was, is taken by His Majesty to his particular consideration, and so are the cases of the persons named in your letter, but I hope that excellent expression in your Grace's letter will have that weight with it as it deserves in His Majesty's present deliberations. I mean that, that no private person can be in greater need of the King's bounty than the public is of His Majesty's providence at this time.

Fitzharris, a son of Sir Edward, is found to have been tampering with one Everard (formerly a prisoner in the Tower) to embroil the King with his people by seditious libels. They hammered (as it appears by Sir Wm. Waller and Smyth, the convert priest of Durham, whom Everard had so posted in the room they met in as to overhear what passed between him and Fitzharris) a most pernicious black-mouthed libel between them. Everard, Smith and Sir Wm. Waller will prove that Fitzharris gave the first lines by way of instruction for the libel, and made several amendments to it. This will be of extreme danger to Fitzharris's life, yet I am persuaded there are some ingredients of refined malice in it, that I do somewhat doubt they were masters enough of their art to mingle so much venom together with so much skill, so that I think there is some evil spirit behind the curtain that is not yet seen.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE KEATING to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 1.—Being this day assured that His Majesty had signified his royal pleasure for making Sir William Davys Lord Chief Justice of his Court of Chief Place, I conclude thence that Serjeant Osborne will succeed Sir William in his place of Prime Serjeant, and thereupon make bold to mind your Lordship of your servant Sir Richard Stephens to come into the room of Serjeant Osborne.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 1. London.—Though the packet came to town on Saturday last I had your Grace's letter of the 19th of the last month but this day. The enclosed papers will convince the Board and those who have a mind to know the truth that arms and ammunition are to be had in Munster by any that want and are willing to pay what is reasonable, provided they are persons qualified. My Lord Anglesey is at present very ill of the gout, but before he was ill I took notice to him of the letter he had put in print which reflected so much upon you, and he knew to be false. He protested he gave no leave for the printing it, neither did he design to reflect on you, but the contrary. I told him I believed he thought to save himself by aspersing you at this time, but it would do him no good. The papers you sent over relating to my Lord Clare I am afraid are not to be found, they were so little regarded by His Majesty; but if I can retrieve them I will have His Majesty's leave to let my Lord Chamberlain have a sight of them.

CAPTAIN HENRY BOYLE to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 1. Castlemartyr.—I had the honour of your lordship's last night of the 26th of Feb. and am very glad that together with my most humble acknowledgment

for it I can give your lordship an account that some of the rogues who were guilty of the late robberies have been so well pursued that they are taken, and from them we hope to know the whole gang of them. I am very confident if they be not discovered and taken it will not be the fault of any gentleman in this county either English or Irish, for such villains make no distinction either of religion or countrymen; but the militia of this country, which your lordship is pleased to call so great, tho' they are indeed a considerable body of men, yet bad horses and the want of arms and ammunition renders them less valuable than they might otherwise be. And how to mend these defects without money, and how to get money without a sufficient authority to levy it, which most think cannot be done without an Act of Parliament, is what the Commissioners of Array have often met about, but to no purpose.

There is a report as if complaints should be sent out of this country by letters for England setting forth that the militia of this country had been denied necessaries for their money, and that an account of this is come to Dublin; they must be very ignorant of the condition of this country that do not know arms, etc., have been long lodged at Cork for the militia to buy them at certain rates, and that besides several merchants have by licence from the Lord Lieutenant and Council brought over arms, etc., for the militia, some of which have been sold for that use; and I am confident hardly any man of any sort throughout the whole province but knows we are to be supplied for money either by the store-keeper or by the merchant of sufficient arms for the use of the militia; but we hope at this assizes at Cork to find some expedient if possible to be better provided than now we are.

My cousin Supple's wife died yesterday morning, to his great trouble, and not without reason. She was a very good woman and died with as little concern and as much religion as ever I saw anybody.

My uncle Burlington writes to me that care is taking in England to put Ireland into a good posture, that one thousand young men are raising to recruit the foot companies, and orders coming to mount the great guns in several places and other good things for the advantage of this kingdom, which if it please God to accompany with a good correspondency on all sides in England will end to the great happiness of all people.

**PETITION OF THE GRAND JURY OF CO. CLARE TO THE LORD
LIEUTENANT.**

1680-1, March 1.—The humble petition of the Grand Jury of the county of Clare held at the assizes the first of March, 1680. Your petitioners being awakened by the votes of both Houses of Parliament in England as well as by our own observations into a sense of our danger by the horrid designs

of the enemy of the Protestant religion by law established, we in the first place think ourselves very happy by your Grace's great care and vigilancy, but since we have not any settled guards of the standing army nor militia yet formed in this county, we humbly beseech your Grace to have that favourable regard for us as to put us into such a posture of defence that if we be at any time assaulted by foreign or domestic enemies we may be always able to give that account that may become His Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects.

And we your petitioners shall pray.

John Gore, foreman; John Colpoys, Thomas Hickman, Mountyfort Westroppe, Rawly Newdegate, Robert Cole, James FitzGerald, Don. O'Bryen, D. O'Bryen, Augustine FitzGerald, Hen. Hickman, Thomas Boucher, Nicho. Devereux.

SIR WILLIAM DAVYS to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 2. Clonmel.—Having received a copy of a petition of the Lord Ward and others against me from his Grace the Lord Primate, and finding that the matter thereof relates to your Grace's Court of the Palatinate, I hold myself in duty bound to acquaint your Grace with the true state of that case, which cannot be contradicted, because it is drawn from the several orders from time to time conceived in that case by the Court. The thing mainly desired by the Lord Ward, etc., was the dissolving an injunction which now happens to be granted to them before I received the copy of their petition against me, which yet troubles me lest it may seem on the other side as if gained by threats and menaces; but whether they will be satisfied or not with the last rule of Court my principal aim is your Grace's satisfaction. My Lord, I have now served your Grace near three apprenticeships in that Court, and I do not remember that in all that time any one complaint of me has come before your Grace, as no question the Lord Ward, etc., had complained to your Grace (which they ought to have first done if oppressed in your Grace's Court before they should appeal to any other judicature) had they known me faulty in any arbitrary proceedings or unjust oppressions of any man in your Grace's Courts there.

WILLIAM WORTH, Recorder of Cork, to LORD PRIMATE.

1680-1, March 4. Cork.—This day I received the honour of your Grace's letter about Mr. Sealy's having a militia foot company in this city, and his arming that company at his own charge, which proposal of his, although it is very fair and handsome, yet, my Lord, there is already so many companies and troops raised within the liberties of this city that it is almost impossible to raise more, and so sensible the people of this place are thereof that they intend to petition my Lord Lieutenant to reduce the Militia already raised to five companies of foot and one troop of horse, and these they will arm

very suddenly; for we have already taken course for the arming most of the militia of this city, and therefore I humbly beg your Grace to desire my Lord Lieutenant that no more militia may be raised in this city, for both the Mayor and several others of this place desired me to write to that purpose to your Grace. Before I received your Grace's letter since my return home I have examined narrowly into the business of Major Hore's, who was likely to be robbed in the west, and the story thereof made a great noise here, but upon strict enquiry I cannot find there was above four men that attempted to rob him, and to break into his castle, one of which is thought to be a serjeant of the Scotch Regiment, and formerly under the command of Sir James Murray, who, when he was commanded to Tangier, ran away from his colours and has ever since been skulking up and down the country; and some of the rest, if not all, are such kind of fellows as ran from their colours when the Scotch companies were commanded to Tangier, and are this country men, but because they speak French the people of the country will not believe but they are French men sent over to cut their throats. But for the other robbery which was committed on Mr. Murrough near Castlelyons it is found out that those who committed it were all Irishmen and great cow-stealers; one of them being apprehended has discovered his confederates. I have here enclosed sent your Grace a copy of a petition which was found on ship board by some of the officers of the Custom House of Youghal in search for papers in a ship which lately came from France. Some people here has got it translated into English, but it was found written in Latin, but whether the thing is real I cannot tell. But upon the perusal thereof your Grace will find it agrees pretty near with their common notion of their own affairs, penned in excellent Latin, and a foreign style not usual to this country, but when your Grace has perused it your Grace is best able to judge thereof, and therefore it is humbly submitted to you by, etc.

- EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 5. London.—I have given my Lord Longford an account of proceedings relating to Fitzharris, and my Lord Conway told me to-day he had informed you of the particulars he stands accused of. He has directions from the King to recommend Mr. Henry Progers to your Grace for the reversion of the Serjeant Porter's place, Sir Edward Brett's nephew, who had the reversion before being lately dead I suppose he was father to your page. Mr. Progers is a very honest gentleman, and I promised this morning to write on his behalf but I must do right to everybody, and therefore at Sir Edward's desire I asked the King whether he had not at first promised to recommend one Mr. Brett upon my Lord Dorset's application before he gave order to my Lord Conway for the other. His Majesty said it might very well be, but he did

not remember it, but spoke very kindly of Sir Edward. I have heard by several credible persons that the Lords of the Cabal say this letter my Lord Anglesey has printed must either do your work or his, but from whence they ground that opinion I can't guess, for they must go back many years before the Act of Indemnity, and if that be laid aside your adversary will be in a very ill condition himself.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 5. Whitehall.—The King will be on Monday sennight in Oxford. I wish our preparations for that meeting did bear proportion with the diligences of the adverse party. Yorkshire and Wiltshire have had the ordinary instructions obtruded upon them as the act of the gentry by a mere surprise, that is one man handing a paper to be read in a crowd while all was in a hurry and nobody heeded what it was. But at the Assizes at Salisbury the Grand Jury presented the paper as seditious, and the author to deserve punishment. Fitzharris confesseth nothing, tho' 'tis morally impossible but he must know the author of that pestilent libel. The city is quiet at this time, I mean the fermentation ceases working, having spent itself very much. His Royal Highness's youngest daughter, the Lady Isabella, died on Wednesday last.

ORMOND to CAPT. GEORGE MATHEW.

1680-1, March 5. Dublin.—I spoke this day with my nephew Anthony Hamilton concerning Nenagh and I find him ready to comply with my desires. In order to it he tells me he will send for a rent roll of that farm, for he says a part of it is let, but he cannot tell for what, to whom, or for how long. When that is known it will remain only to know and value what is stocked and of all this I suppose you may get some account, that if it be possible we may get into possession by May.

My Lord of Anglesey, in answer to a foolish and unseasonable book of my Lord Castlehaven's, has made many scandalous reflections upon me for my actings in the cessations and peaces. I have caused one of them concerning my acquisitions to be transcribed and send it you because you can best instruct me how to confute him; the rest I am providing for. There is yet come over but one printed copy that I know of, and that I keep by me. If more come one shall be sent you.

LORD CLARE to CHIEF BARON HENE.

1680-1, March 5. Ennis.—Having considered since I parted with your lordship that the Parliament in England is to meet upon the 21st of this month, and that it is to be feared some evil members that wish not well to the Protestant interest might advise His Majesty to prorogue or dissolve it, I thought fit humbly to pray your lordship to send under your lordship's

cover by the next post the petition, which I with some Justices of the Peace and the Grand Jury of this county delivered your lordship for my Lord Lieutenant, if your lordship be not of opinion that it will do as well to deliver it when your lordship goes to Dublin.

Tho' we be very inconsiderable, yet being the first county of the circuit of this province and that we have not a fanatic or factious man a dweller among us (if he be not a Papist) it may show His Majesty the sense of the rest of the kingdom and convince him that the Papists have not that power in it which some persons to my knowledge have endeavoured to persuade him to twelve years past. As for any expressions in the letter, our meaning is good and our condition requires we should speak now somewhat feelingly. There is nothing in it but what I will justify to be most necessary for the preservation of the Protestant interest in this kingdom.

CAPT. HENRY BOYLE to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680-1, March 8. Castlemartyr.—I had the honour of your lordship's of the 5th instant, wherein you are pleased to say that you acquainted my Lord Lieutenant with what I had writ to your lordship concerning the reports spread of the Militia in this county, and that his Excellency was very well pleased to see what I had writ. I most humbly thank your lordship for the trouble you gave yourself in it, but I hope my Lord Lieutenant did not think I was the author of such a report, for if ever it should be my misfortune to be so far engaged in public business as to appear upon the stage, I shall never have cause, I am confident, to complain of the Government, or if I had it should be for what I might be very well able to prove, and not for such things as everybody are able to contradict, which may be done in this case very notoriously. Your lordship is pleased to observe that the Militia of this county is in a very ill condition, and it is very certain they are so, but that which renders them most despicable is their want of arms, which we have hopes to supply them with, and to mend our condition at this next Assizes. My uncle Shannon is now here and has received his Grace my Lord Lieutenant's letters concerning Mr. Dudley Fitzgerald. His lordship tell me he hath another evidence about the business of Macroom, and such as I believe will not be favourable for Mr. Fitzgerald. Since the robbery at Castlelyons we have heard of no other attempt, which makes us hope that those villains being taken such rogueries will cease in these parts.

COL. THEODORE RUSSELL to EARL OF GRANARD.

1680-1, March 8. Galway.—I have in obedience to my Lord Duke of Ormond's command followed the directions of Mr. Robeson, Surveyor General, and sent enclosed to him the value and charge of the necessary repair for the two

citadels. That being done, in one of them will be found lodgements for two companies and four companies in the other. In this nothing is said of the defects of the town walls or gates or drawbridges, which are in no small disorder. The copies of the charge as the workmen have computed it, being the same I sent to Mr. Robeson, is here on the other side set down for your Lordship's view, the cheapest that it is possible to be done, as the workmen do declare to this, if your lordship can hasten the matter it will be of no small consequence to the King's service.

CAPT. JO. FFOLLIOTT to ORMOND.

1680-81, March 6. Cork.—In obedience to your commands (may it please your Grace) I humbly present you with some affairs and passages in this county. At my coming to Cork I found the people under a great consternation, fearing the French invading and the Irish rising, though upon no probable measure I can meet with, but by what they hear from England (I hope 'tis not first transported from hence). For my Lord of Cork and Lord of Winchelsea, young Jack King, my Lord Kingston's brother, being on his travels for France went to receive his lordship's commands, they being together told him that Ireland was inevitably lost past recovery by a combination of the French and Irish, and their lordships often repeated the sense they had and sorrow they lay under for so great and certain a destruction. My Lord Shannon (one that saw it tells me) had lately a letter from his brother Cork dissuading him from his resolution of leaving Ireland for some time. I humbly suppose (my Lord) till after next rent day, for should my Lord Shannon leave this kingdom before, I fear his lordship looks on't as lost, and so my lord no more rent to be paid, which to some it may be were as heavy a burden to sustain as a wounded conscience. I most humbly refer the meaning of these things to your Grace's wisdom. I only beg leave to say that I am of opinion the fathers of some have eaten sour grapes, and their children's teeth are set on edge. My Lord, most of our principal men believe that a settled Militia would much contribute to our present quiet, and preserve us for the future, yet I am assured at the last meeting of our Commissioners of Array some of our grantees opposed the raising money to arm our Militia, for fear of a Parliament. This humour was first broached by the late Lord Orrery and still pursued. My Lord, one Mrs. Townsend wrote a letter to her husband, Col. Townsend, being here, that a priest on his death-bed wrote to her that (being afflicted in mind), by such a day all the Protestants were to be murdered, which did much alarm this country I find, but the day being past and nobody killed and all quiet but a few robberies committed by common thieves, that hubbub is over. The report of two barrels of powder found in a tree is quite false, nothing but old rotten

barrels found in an old rotten tree. I most humbly beg your Grace's for this presumption.

EARL OF CONWAY to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 8 (received).—I have shewed His Majesty your Grace's letter of the 20th past and the copy of my Lord Clare's to your Grace of the 11th. It is the same which His Majesty finds himself surrounded with from all parts by contrivances and are to strike terror into him, as if he were beset on all sides. But His Majesty doth not look upon it as very terrible from my Lord Clare and thinks it would become him better to meddle only with his own business.

Sir John Davys's case is the hardest in the world, and yet His Majesty can give him no relief without great inconvenience. It hath been often debated in Council, considered and reconsidered by Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor, and the result is that they can propose no way but to have him tried by the King's Commission of Oyer and Terminer in some other county, and not in the county of Middlesex. Upon which I said all the witnesses that can come in to clear him were in Ireland, that your Grace, my Lord Granard and the Bishop of Meath were the chief, and that it was impossible your Grace could be there, and great difficulties I thought would be upon others; to which there was no other answer but that as many as could come must come, for they could do nothing else.

We have had no less than eight witnesses before the King and the Council, who have deposed upon oath how they were tampered with to swear against the Queen, the Duke, your Grace and my Lord Chancellor of Ireland as the contrivers and carriers on of the Popish Plot. I suppose your Grace will hear from others the story of Mr. FitzHarris, the son of Sir Edward FitzHarris. It hath given the King the trouble of three Council days extraordinary, and I believe Mr. FitzHarris will go near to be hanged.

I humbly beg your Grace's pardon for troubling you with these affairs, which are foreign to those wherein I desire to serve your Grace, but in all things I shall be ever ambitious to shew my inclinations and my zeal to be esteemed, etc.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 8. London.—I had yesterday your Grace's of the first with the copies of your letters to Sir Oyril Wyche and Mr. Secretary Jenkins, and I find you judge very right, for the Court is in such a hurry that there will be no time to mind the affairs of that country, but I put the Secretary in mind to show your letter to the Council before their going to Oxford, towards which place the King sets out on Saturday next, but stays at Windsor on Sunday. I believe His Majesty has not taken the pains to read my Lord Anglesey's book,

and therefore I did not think it proper to know his pleasure whether he would have you answer it or no, but I am of opinion that an answer should be made (tho' not put but during the sitting of Parliament) to vindicate you as to the world, for either of the Houses would be glad to find a fault in one of you, and I think you will do yourself no honour in contending with him. He owns writing the contents of the book, but not the giving way to the printing of it.

Before I received your letter I had discountenanced the prosecuting of the business of the conspiracy so far as it concerned you for the reasons you mention in your letter, and I believe as little good is to be expected in the Parliament as matters now go, or are like to be carried, when we meet. I intend for Oxford with my Lord Chesterfield on Friday sennight and I believe we shall lodge together.

I hear Fitzsharris owns nothing farther of the business he was imprisoned about, but that he will be a farther discoverer of the Plot. I find the prints say nothing farther of him. The first letter you writ on behalf of the Archbishop of Dublin is mislaid, but I have this day given Mr. Cooke a letter I had from his Grace upon that subject, it were well the form of a letter should be sent over from thence, for Mr. Cooke can't tell how to draw one here. The Bishop of Down was to see me this morning and desires for his health sake a longer licence of absence.

FRANCIS GWYN to ORMOND.

1680-81, March 8. Whitehall.—The great affair that hath of late taken up the Board hath been the examination of Mr. FitzHarris. The occasion of his being first brought thither (I suppose your Grace hath already heard) for endeavouring to publish a most treasonable libel, and upon his examination it did appear that though he was the compiler and director of it himself, yet he intended to have charged one Everard (who was a very busy man in discovering the Plot) and some of his gang as the contrivers of it, but Everard being beforehand with him discovered first, and the foul draught appearing to be mended in several places with FitzHarris' own hand, and an addition to it all writ by himself, with three witnesses to prove his discourse with Everard, was to press him to print it, and encouraged him by hopes of a reward from the French Ambassador, laid it so close upon FitzHarris that the matter being treason almost in every line, there was no probability but FitzHarris would have incurred the penalty of a traitor. So the matter rested the last time FitzHarris was before the Council, but on Sunday night the Sheriffs of London, who had been in Newgate with him, waited upon His Majesty and acquainted him that FitzHarris had something more to discover. Whereupon His Majesty commanded both the Secretaries and Mr. Attorney Gen. to go to Newgate on Monday morning to re-examine him. When

they came to him they found he then came in with a new discovery concerning the Plot, speaking in general words only, and to-day again upon the Secretaries and Mr. Attorney being with him he says more in relation to the general Plot in England and Ireland, much of the same nature with some of the witnesses that went before him. What will be the consequence of it I submit to your Grace. His Majesty intends to remove on Saturday next to Windsor and on Monday to Oxford.

SIR CYRIL WYCHE to ORMOND.

1680-1, Tuesday, March 8. St. James's Square.—I think myself extremely happy in the opinion your Grace is pleased to express of me in yours of the 1st instant upon your hearing I am one of this Parliament, and I must needs say this for myself, that were it in my power as well as it is in my prayers there should be that perfect good understanding between the King and his Parliament that no artifices on any hand should be able to diminish. But what is in no man's single power to effect is not only in every man's, but every one's duty too to endeavour, and in my humble station I will do my utmost to promote it. I am very sensible that we live in a time when 'tis almost impossible to preserve the character of an honest man, and the most exact circumspection that can be used is seldom able to preserve one from very hard censures on one hand or other, and sometimes on both. It was therefore against my sense and intention to have come yet upon the stage again, but to have waited a time when moderate counsels had been more likely to have succeeded; but having submitted my judgment to that of my friends, I have resolved too not to quit those principles of loyalty and honesty and zeal to the true Protestant religion, which I have hitherto preserved and will carry to my grave, for any fear of being misconstrued or misrepresented. If my utmost diligence can be of any use to your Grace, 'twill be my honour to be found doing you service. If you shall be pleased to send me any particular instructions I will carefully follow them; if not, I will in general do what is in my mean capacity to vindicate your Grace from those aspersions which none but very dis-tempered times could cast upon your actions.

SENTENCE OF COURT MARTIAL UPON CAPTAIN THOMAS BRIDGES, MARCH 8, 1680-1, DUBLIN.

At a court marshal held in Dublin the 8th of March, 1680. Arthur Lord Viscount Granard, Field Marshal. President.

Sir Wm. Flower, Sir Tho. Newcomen, Sir Cha. Feilding, Maj. Rupt. Billingsley, Capt. Oliver Long, Capt. Rich. Coote, Sir Oliver St. George, Col. Carey Dillon, Capt. Robt. FitzGerald, Lord Viscount Blessington, Sir John Peyton, Capt. Cha. Murray.

Assistants.

Upon information given by the Advocate General against Capt. Thomas Bridges, capt. of a foot company in His Majesty's Army, that the said Capt. Bridges having made deductions from several of the soldiers in his company of a considerable sum of money due for their quarters at Ballymoney in the county of Antrim some years since, which was not paid to the inhabitants, notwithstanding he had received several positive orders to discharge the same from his superior officer; and that the said captain had used great fraud, practice and deceit in procuring counterfeited a certificate that many of his company had received the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper, when in truth the whole certificate was forged in order to deceive the Mustermaster and his commissaries. And upon examination of several witnesses and perusing the muster rolls and certificates aforesaid, and upon hearing of all that can be offered by all parties, it was ordered and adjudged by the Court aforesaid that the said captain shall satisfy and pay unto the inhabitants of Ballymoney aforesaid what shall appear to be deducted by him or his clerks from the soldiers towards the discharge of the quarters aforesaid, and that he shall likewise pay unto the officers and soldiers of his company such sums of money as by a report delivered to the said Court by Capt. Oliver Long and Capt. Richard Coote doth appear, and it was likewise ordered and adjudged that the said Capt. Bridges for his disobedience, neglect and practice aforesaid should be cashiered his command in His Majesty's army aforesaid. And the said captain was cashiered accordingly.—Jo. Topham, Advocate General.

CAPT. RICHARD EUSTACE to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 9. Lisburn.—Since my return to my quarters I find the people more decent in their expressions of the Government and Governors. I wish it were as sincere as they would have it thought, but the contrary appears with their presumption, for on Sunday last was seven night one of their preachers, Streton by name, and a stranger in this country, preached in a barn near this town, to whom many of the inhabitants resorted, a thing never before attempted in my Lord Conway's town nor country of Kilulta, for he always vigorously suppressed them upon their first appearance. Sir G. Rawdon sent my ensign with a party to the place, who (after the parson had done) brought him to Sir George, who thought fit to reprove, but not commit, him; which soft usage gave him encouragement to make application to Sir George to build a meeting house in this town, which he, Mr. Adare the Presbyterian preacher of Belfast, and Mr. Hutchinson another preacher (but esteemed a moderate man) pressed with so great importunity that nothing would satisfy them but a compliance, which they missing of went away dissatisfied, but was heard to declare that they did not doubt in a little time

to establish their desires by authority. Their presbytery has of late enjoined a general fast, which on Thursday last was kept with great strictness and abstinence from all labour (though on Christmas Day they'll plow), the whole day being employed in preaching, fasting and praying for deliverance from all Papists and their adherents, of which number they declare our Church in general. I have this week put myself in the way of several gentlemen at their landing from Scotland, as Lieutenant Colonel Monro and others, who say that his Royal Highness his behaviour (in appearance) pleases most of the nobility and gentry, but all agree that the fiery dispositions of the kirk and people is rather smothered than extinguished. The most loyal of that nation amongst us here are of that opinion. I dare not venture to recommend any man in our parts for the purpose your Grace mentioned, but if your Grace will be pleased to honour me with any trust I do promise all the faith that can be expected from a loyal subject, a true Churchman and a passionate lover of your Grace and family which firmly binds me to seek all occasions of proving myself, etc.

Postscript.—It will never be known to nor suspected by any that I am sent, for I have often declared my resolution (if I could get leave and a licence) to wait on His Royal Highness. I will not presume to trouble your Grace any further, but do humbly offer myself with all willingness and sincerity to your Grace's disposal.

JOHN ROAN, BISHOP OF KILLALOE, to PRIMATE BOYLE.

1680-1, March 10. Limerick.—When I was last in Dublin I had some discourse with my Lord Lieutenant concerning Bishop Moloney, whom his Grace believed was in France, whereas I then was and am still of opinion he is in this kingdom, besides other I have this reason that in the beginning of November last the parish priest of Tullagh died and the parishioners chose of themselves one Grady to succeed; where he had scarce continued three weeks, but there came an order from Bishop Molony under his own hand for the induction of one White. The original order I expect this week to be brought me, so that it is evident he could not be in France.

I thought fit to acquaint your Grace of what I presume your Grace may have some notice of before this can arrive at Dublin, which is concerning a petition of our grand jury at Innish [Ennis]. The Archbishop of Tuam (who had a trial for some lands, and now knows what discouragement a Bishop hath to be tried by a Popish jury, that is the common jury in that county), he with myself lay at the house of Mr. Gore, the foreman of the jury, who, on Friday night at 11 a'clock, was pleased to impart first to me, and we both to the Archbishop, what a petition was presented to the jury, the Lord Clare being the chief promoter. I told them my sense, which

the Archbishop did likewise, that it was a petition scandalous to the Government, and of such a nature as could not be well resented, etc., therefore advised them (for besides the foreman there was another of the jury with him) to suppress that petition that it might never see light, and truly those two persons, Mr. Gore and Mr. Thomas Hickman, were convinced, and promised they would endeavour to suppress it, at least never to promote or join in it. But they told me they now being so far engaged must needs have some petition to offer, that they may stop the mouths of their fellows, and therefore desired I would dictate one for them, which I was loth to be known in such matters. One of them took pen and paper, and I confess the Archbishop and myself did help them to draw a petition (a copy of which is endorsed on the back of this) and those persons early the next morning got it engrossed and presented it to their fellows, who all but three were convinced of their folly in the former, and adhered to present this, which accordingly was done by the foreman. But the Lord Clare and the other dissenters were earnest for the presenting the Lord Clare's petition, for he was foreman in that, and would not cease their clamour till that petition was also presented to the judge, which the foreman at last did, but with this reserve declaring to the Judge that he did not present it as from the grand jury, and desired his Lordship not so to receive it, but only to satisfy the others' importunity, and for his Lordship's own satisfaction in the nature of the thing it was delivered, which his Lordship might make what use of he pleased. After our coming to this place I found that there were many copies of that factious petition dispersed abroad and, as I understand, by the Lord Clare. I there-upon demanded of my Lord Chief Baron whether he had given any copies of it, he replied he had not nor shewed it to any but his brother Judge, so that I am satisfied my Lord Clare hath dispersed them, and I hear that my Lord Lieutenant hath one sent him. I was therefore the more willing to satisfy your Grace in the whole proceeding, in regard my Lord Chief Baron will not be in Dublin to give an account for some weeks longer. The petition endorsed on the back of this letter runs as follows:—

“To his Grace the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. The humble petition of the Grand Jury for the County of Clare, held the first of March, 1680, Your petitioners being awakened by the votes of both Houses of Parliament in England as well as by our own observations into a sense of our danger by the horrid designs of the enemies of the Protestant religion by law established, We in the first place think ourselves very happy by your Grace's great care and vigilance, but since we have not any settled guards of the standing army, nor militia yet formed in this county, we humbly beseech your Grace to have that favourable regard for us as to put us in such a posture of defence that if we be at any time assaulted by foreign or domestic enemies we may be always able to give

such account as may become His Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects."

ORMOND to EARL OF ARRAN.

1680-1, March 12. Dublin.—I think I have made no return to yours of the 26th of the last or 1st and 5th or this month, and possibly this may find you at Oxford or ready to go thither. Something I have said to each of the Secretaries upon the case of Sir John Davys, as it may affect any of the King's servants and in consequence himself if the edge of those laws that ought to protect his person and prerogative may be turned against both by perversion and combination. Sir John Davys carried with him, as Mat Barry tells me, the papers that relate to the proceedings against Drake, and since he may not appear before there may be use of them, it may be fit to get them into your hands, but I believe the Parliament will not begin so low as with his complaint.

What I now send Mr. Secretary Jenkins will not only shew that there was no ground for the suggestion that arms and ammunition could not be had in Munster for the Protestants, but that Mr. Boyle gave no countenance to the report, and by the extract of another it will appear what the opinion of sober Protestants is of the danger of that province from a single Irish insurrection. I have made some progress in an answer to my Lord of Anglesey's foolish libel, which would be short if I intended only his confutation, but the occasion being given I am advised to enlarge to other purposes.

I cannot imagine why my Lord of Clare is so much despised, when we have experience that every little insect that will be a villain has power to sting. I send my Lord Conway by this post the copies of two addresses gotten by him to be presented to the Judge in the County of Clare, praying that I would interpose with the King for the sitting of the Parliament, and I believe copies of these addresses are sent into England and to other counties here. The petitions are not so come to me as that I need to take any notice of them, but when they do I shall not know what to say to them. I know what should be said and done, but cannot judge of the season; you shall do well to look out my letters concerning that Lord and impart it to my Lord Conway. I have given his Lordship my sense concerning the reversion of Sir Edward Brett's place, but have received none from him or any other of particulars concerning Fitzharris, but I wonder to find him a libeller against the King and Sir Wm. Waller a discoverer. My Lord of Longford tells me you had the ill fortune to dine with him the day he was apprehended. I, without further information, cannot judge of the consequence; but whatever it can be, if it produce what you say it shall I cannot wish it had not happened. I suppose order will be taken that the posts shall pass by Oxford as long as the King is there. I have received a letter from the Lords

Commissioners of the Treasury concerning the revenue, but it is too hard to understand what is driven at by it, and it is so perplexed, contrary to their style in other matters, that it is impossible anybody could contrive it but Sir James Shaen. All I can collect out of it is that he would make show as if the Farmers were more ready to pay the Civil List than the Army are to receive, and then to hook in a permission, whilst they are in arrear, to pay Rider's and other debts, and maintain themselves out of the growing revenue.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 12. London.—The King went early this morning to Windsor and last night he had Fitzharris before him in Council. He owns the plot in general, but will not come to all particulars until he is assured of his pardon, which the King says he will not give him tho' twenty Parliaments should address for him, but it is likely his mind may alter. He accuses Father Patrick and Col. Richard Hamilton with most of the officers of his regiment; he was sent to the Tower after his examination at the Board, but the night before he was examined by the Sheriffs and Sir Robert Clayton, which, I suppose, will be given to the House of Commons. In that examination I believe he enlarges more than in his others. My Lord Burlington has still, as he says, more alarming news out of Munster, that a Castle was taken by force, and that the Irish continue in a great body in arms.

Sir Edward Brett desired me to send his petition and reference to you. I need say nothing on his behalf, for you know him better than I do. There is an ensign here who is of the army of Ireland or rather an ancient who is afraid he shall not overtake the muster. His name is Banting, as I take it an ensign to Beversham; he could not get a recommendation from the Secretary because the Court was, in such a hurry, but I desire he may not suffer. I believe I shall have nothing to write until I go to Oxford.

ORMOND to EARL OF CONWAY.

1680-1, March 12. Dublin.—I have two of your Lordship's to answer, one without date, the other of the 5th of this month. It is certain that in calm and settled times my Lord of Clare's interest and contrivances would have little effect, but in this conjuncture men of less quality and industry have been able to contribute much to our disquiet. By the papers I send your Lordship you will find how busy he has been in the county he lives in, and that it is suspected copies of the petition of the grand jury there are dispersed, that some of them may be sent into England and others into other counties, in hope that the example will be followed. How to carry myself upon so surprising an occasion I am to seek. The Judge, I think with more prudence than he received the address, keeps it in his hands till his return hither, which will not be till the

Parliament has sate some days, and by that time I hope by your Lordship to receive the King's directions how to receive and what answer to give it.

I have great kindness for Sir John Davys and compassion for his sufferings, but I look upon the King's part in the case with greatest trouble, in that he cannot find a way to protect his servants from danger and disgrace when they are attacked by palpable contrivance and conspiracy by very incredible witnesses and accused of a more incredible crime. My Lord Primate and I could do him little service if we were upon the place, because we were not by when he is said to have discouraged the witnesses and undervalued their information. It is not strange that his Grace and I should be accused for contriving and carrying on the Popish Plot there, that amongst the shoal of witnesses that went hence none could be found that would swear it.

The reversion of the serjeant porter's place is most humbly laid at His Majesty's feet without dispute, but if the doctrine be true that he should in this case grant a reversion, His Majesty will infallibly be importuned to grant reversions of all places, and what then signifies the steward's privilege of giving places in the household when they shall be void. It was at my suit that the King granted Sir Edward Brett's kinsman, that is now dead, the reversion of his place, and I did it for nothing but to oblige a gentleman that had served His Majesty and his father long and gallantly, and if reversions come to be given at the instance of any other he so far puts himself into my office.

QUAERES.

[Undated.] Whether the Irish Parliament, which in my Lord of Strafford's time gave His Majesty with so much cheerfulness ten subsidies, were not the same which was in being when the rebellion broke out and so loyally declared against the rebels? And whether it did not consist of more Catholic than Protestant members?

Whether the army raised by my Lord of Strafford with those subsidies did not consist of more Protestants than Catholic officers and soldiers?

Whether His Majesty's consent to the disbanding of that army were not extorted from him by the Long Parliament in England? And whether he received not the Lords Justices' advice from Ireland to do it?

Whether was Sir Henry Tichborne joined in commission with Parsons and Borlase, Lords Justices?

What party did they all take when their Commission was superseded? Or what became of them?

Whether was Sir John R[eade,] whom they put to the rack, a Protestant or a Catholic?

Whether the now Earl of Anglesey were not a member of the Long Parliament and of the Committee for Irish Affairs,

when the insurrection happened in 1641, and whether he did not constantly attend the House in England from their first meeting until he was amongst the 40 members excluded in 1648?

Whether he took the covenant or any other oath against the Government and religion established in England by law?

Whether the Protestants which fought under the Duke of Ormond's Commission from the year 1646 to the year 1648, and from 1648 to 1650 were equal in number with those who with arms opposed him in those times and would not acknowledge the King's authority?

Why did not the Earl of Castlehaven engage with his Grace at Kilrush? and if under suspicion of disloyalty why was he not secured?

What authority had Glamorgan to treat about a peace with the Irish? and what peace did he make? and with whom? and when?

What advice is that which the Earl of Anglesey insinuates to have been given by the Earl of Castlehaven to his Grace when he asked which of his enemies he should treat with? *vide* page 69 of the Letter from the Person of Honor &c.

ORMOND to LORD DERBY.

1680-1, March 13. Dublin.—I have two of your Lop's and one from your wife since I writ to you. That from Chester was brought me by a servant of mine. I suppose you were in that place upon the election of Parliament men, and that you have contributed towards the choice of men of moderation and temper, true lovers of their religion, King and country. I am sure there was never more need of men so disposed. If it please God to give good success to the meeting at Oxford, it will produce many advantages to all honest men and I may hope to see your Lop. here to my great satisfaction, being with great reality, my Lord, your Lop's most affectionate grandfather and most humble servant

ORMOND to EARL OF CONWAY.

1680-1, March 14. Dublin.—The Lord Primate received this morning an account of the county of Clare petition in a letter from the Bishop of Killaloe. Some of the subscribing persons by their names I suspect to be Papists, or at the best such Protestants as the Lord of Clare, who is said to have gone to Mass in Spain since his conversion, whose lady is in a nunnery in France, and his eldest son page to the French King. If it be true that the Bishop Molony be still in Ireland I cannot but suspect a correspondence betwixt the Lord of Clare and him, for all his Lordship's pretended zeal for the Protestant religion and to suppress Popery, since nothing in my opinion can more conduce to the Papists' ends than dividing of Protestants, which is endeavoured by that petition. When I had written thus far I received from the judges of

that circuit a copy of the Lord of Clare's letter to the Chief Baron, of which I send your Lordship a transcript. It no way lessens the suspicion I had before. Your Lordship by the second short and more dutiful petition will observe that most of the gentlemen, Justices of the Peace and of the jury, would have retracted the first; but my Lord of Clare having engaged them was able to hold them to it.

DONOGH O'BRYEN to LORD BLESSINGTON.

1680-1, March 15. Limerick.—Although I presume your Lordship has an account before now of the Lord Clare with some other Justices of the Peace and the juries' proceedings on a petition at the late assizes held at Ennis, yet I hope it is not too late for me to acquaint your Lordship that I was not only against it, but that I am not any of the Donoghs O'Bryen among the subscribers to the petition, the one of them being the grandson of Bryen of Newtowne, whom his Grace your father knew, and now to be married to Ivers' daughter, that is Lord Clare's steward, by whose influence and his own ignorance, this being the first jury he was ever upon, he assented to that rude and unparralleled petition. The other Donogh O'Bryen so called, though I know not why, because he is not of any family known amongst us, and in himself a poor mean man, having no other calling or subsistence but a minister's proctor for gathering and setting his tithes and other dues; and although these two to the scandal of the name of O'Bryen, and the rest of the jury-men, may be thought to be the authors of this petition, yet from my own observation I can assure your Lordship that they were ignorant of the design till that unfortunate Lord brought the petition to them, and by frequent importunities and ill grounded suggestions prevailed upon most of them to agree to it; some of them I will not say by my persuasion being to this day dissenters to it. This I will not affirm for them who signed to it as justices and not jury-men with him, because by their forwardness in the matter and going with him to persuade the jury to join in the address I am induced to believe they were privy to his design, which by some remarks I took before assizes I observed did put him upon having such a jury impanelled as would join with him in this matter, and now that I have troubled your Lordship with an account of the truth of this affair, I entreat your Lordship to acquaint my Lord Lieutenant and his Grace your father with it, that I may not fall under their displeasure, nor by any misrepresentation be deprived of the character of a true and loyal subject to my King in their esteem.

Since my Lady Catherine hath told your Lordship that she will refer our difference I am very free to it, and that your Lordship shall be the sole judge of it, and shall wait upon you the next term or sooner if you appoint it.

Annexed to this I send you the copy of the petition.

SIR WILLIAM KING to WM. ELLIS.

1680-1, March 15. Limerick.—In obedience to his Grace's commands I ordered the officers commanding the several companies here to inquire after and make return to me of the names of such soldiers in their respective companies as are now married to women of the Popish Communion, a list of which I here enclosed send to you to be presented to his Grace. Some of the soldiers contained in this list are so old that I fear if they be dismissed before some other provision be made for them they will starve, they not being now able to betake themselves to any other way of livelihood, and many of them married before the companies were under our commands, and being withal men of English birth and extraction, and are fit objects of his Grace's mercy and consideration. The Tories I formerly acquainted his Grace I hoped I had got set twixt the counties of Limerick and Tipperary could not be found, though I had full assurances they should, but instead of them the officer brought me two persons suspected for harbouring such, but their being no proof against them, and I on the whole examination finding many faults in my informer, I thought it not fit to put the poor men to unnecessary troubles. Some of those lately suspected for robberies committed near this place being apprehended and tried, were found guilty and executed, and among them that soldier of mine I formerly gave his Grace an account of, which is all that offers at present.

Encloses a "List of Soldiers within the Garrison of Limerick that are married to women of the Popish Communion."

EARL OF LONGFORD to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 17.—The bearer, Mr. Hamilton, happening to be at Ennis when my Lord Clare and the Grand Jury delivered their petition to the Judges (a copy whereof his Lordship gave him), I thought it my duty to acquaint your Grace with it and to let your Grace know that his Lordship values himself much upon this exploit, having in discourse with the bearer told him that while the Parliament was sitting there were several gentlemen in that country ready to make further discoveries of the Plot, who since the dissolution of it have been discouraged to do it. How far your Grace will think fit to take notice of his Lordship's proceeding before the return of my Lord Chief Baron I most humbly submit it to your Grace's judgment. But if my Lord Primate pursue his resolution of turning all those out of the Commission for the Peace who have Popish wives and breed their children Papists, I hope his Grace in that general rule will not make an exception of his Lordship, who takes such liberties of reflecting upon the Government. The bearer knows nothing of the intimation I have given your Grace of this whole matter.

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE KEATING to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 18. Longford.—On my arrival at this place I understood from the Earl of Longford and Lord Granard that the Lord of Clare (which I thought almost impossible) had to his many former indiscretions added one folly more. But neither of their Lordships could tell me certainly what the substance of his Lordship's desires are ; however, it brought fresh into my thoughts a complaint which the Lord Clare made the last time I saw his Lordship, when pointing out the causes of his misfortunes he ascribed them all to this, that he having offered to His Majesty in a long letter which he took the boldness to write unto him his advice for settling this kingdom in a firm and lasting peace ; amongst many other expedients conducing in his judgment to that end he proposed the seizing of all the Popish clergy as well regular as secular, this to be done in one night, which he undertook should be done in that part of the country and to ship them all for Spain. This letter he saith the King gave the Lord Arlington and the Lord Arlington to Father Patrick, who took a copy, and shewed the original to his Royal Highness, and from thence he dates all his misfortunes, and told me (as I remember) that he had written to the Lord Arlington to demand reparation or that he must acquaint the Parliament with the whole proceeding. I was immediately on my guard, and discoursed the matter but very slenderly with his Lordship, being then bound for Court, but I now plainly perceive that his design is to make a noise with that matter, which ought to alarm Lord Arlington for his defence. This may it please your Grace is what I thought my duty to let your Grace know.

SIR L. JENKINS to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 18. Oxford.—The hurry of my removing to this place hath hindered me these two last posts from giving your Grace an accompt of your commands in your two letters of the first of this month, which are the last yet come to hand.

Both those letters were read in Council, and His Majesty was pleased to approve of what your Grace hath already done, and is now doing, in execution of His Majesty's orders of the 16th of November last relating to the army there.

His Majesty likes well of your Grace's admitting such officers of foot as are past service or otherwise cannot attend to part with their commands ; so he does your Grace's thoughts of drawing into the field as soon as the season is proper for it. The way you are in, my Lord, for recruiting the Scotch Regiment is to His Majesty's liking, tho' some thought the officers have too good a bargain to be in full pay till they do fill up their companies, which they will be in no great haste to do. However, it was His Majesty's judgment that the course taken by your Grace was the best. My Lord of Longford's state of the stores was ordered to be sent (as it is)

to the Commissioners of the Ordnance, and the arrears that the Revenue there is in to the Establishment was referred to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. As to the prosecuting of the Earl of Ranelagh, His Majesty's pleasure was that the suspension should be taken off, only his accompts are now depending before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; and my Lord of Ranelagh begins now to be in that good condition of health as to be able (in a short time) to attend them, in order to have a state and a report made of his accompt, and then proceedings may and will be had at law as cause shall require.

Your Grace's other letter of St. David's Day consisted of two points, the one for a letter to your Grace to issue out a commission for taking the Vice-Treasurer's annual accompts, the other about the fast indicted by the Scotch Presbyterians in that kingdom. When the clause about the letter was read it was moved by the Lords of the Treasury that they might have a sight of that letter, and leave to alter it if need were before it should be presented to His Majesty. Your Grace will find they have added a clause in the latter end, which being presented to His Majesty he was pleased to approve of and to sign. The draught that your Grace sent ~~us~~ was upon the ancient forms; if this addition happen not to be to liking I suppose your Grace will not proceed to issue out the commission till His Majesty's pleasure be further known. That letter comes to your Grace by Mr. Cooke's packet, who sent me the Lords Commissioners' amendment.

As to the Presbyterian fast His Majesty is pleased so far to take notice of it as to direct your Grace and the Council to do what may lawfully be done to prevent for the future and to suppress such meetings, and to send for the ring-leader Alexander to answer for his part in the offence, His Majesty being resolved not to suffer this encroachment upon his regal authority, since it is in order to some further insolencies. I must beg your Grace's pardon for that His Majesty's letter to that effect does not come by this post, His Majesty being now out of this town at Cornbury, and not expected back till this day's post be gone.

I have a third letter to account for to your Grace, that came by the same ordinary with the two former, though this be dated the 19th February. It is in favour of the see of Dublin. His Majesty was graciously pleased to say that no grant should pass of Russell's lands but to my Lord Archbishop of Dublin and his successors, and this is the scope of your Grace's letter. My Lord Archbishop, in a letter to my Lord of Arran, desires that a letter to this effect may be procured from His Majesty. It is my humble opinion that the draught must necessarily come from that side, for it does not appear (to me at least) that the King hath such an estate in the land hitherto as he can convey legally and validly to that see, and possibly the seals on that side will not move to convey

the estate when it shall fall to the King, upon a letter hence that is writ before the estate come to be the King's. For this difficulty I have not brought either your Grace's letter or the business itself before the Council or the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, where certainly it must go, and therefore I humbly conceive it would not be amiss that there were a petition drawn by my Lord Archbishop that might be referred if His Majesty should so please to the Lords Commissioners here, and from them, if need should be, to your Grace, but all this I submit.

His Majesty hath been here ever since Monday; only went out yesterday to a horse-race near Burford, lay last night at Cornbury, and is expected here this evening. We have no Lords of the Parliament (those that followed the Court excepted) come to town, and but very few Commoners, nor is it known what the angry men will begin with. I pray God to make the session calm and healing.

CAPT. A. DOUGLAS to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 21. *Tanger*.—There is no doubt but you have heard by the public letters what hath passed betwixt us and the Moors, who are very well satisfied to make peace, which we believe will be shortly concluded. The ambassador was very well received by the King at Meckenez, who promiseth us the same freedom and liberty of the country as the Moors have. I would write to your Grace more particularly of the circumstances of our affairs here, but I refer it to the bearer, Ensign Power, who hath carried himself very civilly amongst his comrades, and in the King's service with all the conduct and courage could be desired. We hope to return shortly to our old station in Ireland, for we have no pleasure here in time of peace and without money, and our agents have never written to us. I hope your Grace will pardon the freedom I have taken to assure you that we all here are with greatest respect imaginable, etc.

EARL OF ARRAN to ORMOND.

1680-1, March 22. *Oxford*.—I got here on Saturday last, but had not your Grace's of the 12th instant until yesterday in the afternoon. I was so lame with a fall that I got at tennis the day before I left London that I could not stir abroad before this morning. In my last I gave an account of Sir John Davys, who, I suppose, is by this time in Ireland; he has carried along with him the papers relating to Drake's business.

My Lord Burlington is much concerned at the report that he should have said the Militia could not be furnished with powder and arms and denies he ever said so, and desires me to set him right with you as to that particular. My Lord Conway told me this morning in the House that he sends you directions to turn out my Lord Clare from the Commission of

the Peace and his militia troop. I had not time to have any long discourse with him. The post goes from hence every day at one of the clock in the afternoon. The King's speech I conclude will be sent you by other hands, but lest it might be omitted for want of our being settled yet, I send you one. It's believed the House of Commons will be very high upon it when they are a House; this afternoon at three they present their Speaker. This is all I have to say or have time to write, therefore pray excuse me to my Lord Longford for not answering his of the 13th.

LORD LIEUTENANT ORDER to the MUSTER MASTER-GENERAL.

1680-1, March 23.—Whereas by the sixty-fifth Article of the Laws and Ordinances of War published by us for the good conduct of His Majesty's Army in this kingdom it is provided that the Mustermaster General or his deputies shall not suffer any officer or soldier in any troop or foot company to pass muster, unless he shall produce a sufficient certificate under the hand of the Bishop of the diocese, upon a certificate made to him under the hand and seal of the lawful minister of the parish wherein they were quartered or garrisoned that they had received the blessed Sacrament of the Communion, according to the discipline of the Church of Ireland, the Easter or the Christmas next preceding the said muster. And whereas divers officers and soldiers of the army do frequently neglect the due observance of the said article and occasion thereby the stop of their pay, when the same would otherwise issue of course with the pay of the troop or company to which they belong, and afterwards make application to us for the removal of such stop and further time to perform the duty by the said article required, we have thought fit for the prevention of the like neglect in future and the trouble given us by petitions on that account hereby to declare that if any officer or soldier shall hereafter omit receiving the Holy Communion once every year at Easter, Whitsuntide or Christmas, and producing certificate thereof according to the said article, his pay at any time stopped on that account shall stand checked without remission, and such officer or soldier shall lose the same. And we hereby require you or your deputies at the next muster of the troops and companies of the army to make known this our pleasure at the hand of each troop and company, and you are to give it as an instruction to the Commissaries of the muster at least once a year in their several circuits to do the like at the head of each troop and company they shall muster, that all concerned may take notice thereof and return certificate as aforesaid by the last day of Sept.

And for so doing this shall be a warrant given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin, the 23rd of March, 1680-61.

To our trusty and wellbeloved Abraham Yarner, Esq., Muster Master General.

[*Endorsed*] Draught of an Order to the Muster Master.

COL. EDWARD COOKE TO ORMOND.

1680-1, March 24. Oxford.—The 14th the King came hither. His handsome reception, first by the Lord Norreys as Lord Lieutenant of this county (and one perfectly your Grace's servant), next by this Corporation, and lastly by the University, hath been so amply gazetted that I shall decline repetition. Tuesday and Wednesday following His Majesty graciously spent in receiving the addresses of all gentry presented by the Lord Lieutenant, knighting two, Sir George Pudsey and Sir Rich. Crooke, this City's Recorder, and a very loyal person (tho' brother to Upton Crooke, once in Ireland), and in tiring the courtiers in trying all the walks in and about this city, and early on Thursday morning took coach for Burford, where His Majesty's Plate (formerly given to Newmarket) was removed, and that day to be run for. At the park at Witney Townes End, once Lenthall's (your Grace's quondam landlord) now my Lord Clarendon's, Will Chiffinch met His Majesty with his little devil black beagles (slower than your Grace's were) and his hawks; but to show His Majesty's partiality to the latter, tho' the former brought their new started hare into his view, he cried let them go and went a hawking. His Majesty deemed the heats worse than Newmarket, but the hawking hunting country much better. As he came into that town he was met by the reverend magistrates, welcomed with a hearty speech and a rich saddle, and so eat his own dinner at your Grace's old quarters. That ended, he hastened to the course, where he saw these four horses dispute for the two silver salvers he gave. A bay horse of Sir Ralph Dutton's, rode by Mr. Viner, His Majesty's 'querri, who having just saved his distance the first heat in despair ran no more. The next a famous black gelding of Mr. Wharton's (eldest son to the Lord of that name). A bay horse of Mr. Rowe's called *Bullethead*, bought by him of my Lord Suffolk for 150 guineas, designed to win all the plates, he offered to bet six to four he won the place against all the horses in the field, and my Lord Secretary Conway offered him for his horse and his share in the plate 300 guineas, but was refused. He rode his own horse, but the winning horse was Mr. Gristin's roan bred by my Lord Exeter and rode by Nick Baynton. There being money laid between the black gelding and roan they tied for the first heat, whilst *Bullethead* saved himself by only saving his distance. But *Roan* at ease won that heat. The second *Bullethead* strove for, but in vain, *Roan* having feld him ere half the course was run over, so that by the laws of the course two heats being won, nothing less than a distance the third heat could win the plate from him. It was resigned to him. And the King that night supped and lay at Cornbury, and dined there next day, being splendidly treated by its worthy proprietor. In the Friday afternoon it fell to my share to guide His Majesty hawking towards Oxford, at which he had very satisfactory sport, tho' quite

tired with it, on Campsfield took coach and returned to Oxford. Monday both Houses met ; His Majesty's speech I presume your Grace hath. The Chancellor's was only directions to the Commons to go choose their Speaker and present him at three in the afternoon on Tuesday. Williams, the former Speaker, was unanimously chosen and approved by His Majesty. I found the character of His Majesty's speech different in the Commons' mouths. Many allowed it to be an excellent gracious one, all the rest a subtle crafty one, and so unexpected that they should be put upon taking new measures. Their Lordships have only possessed themselves of a Bill for repealing that Act made in Queen Elizabeth's reign calculated chiefly against Popish recusants, but since most severely extended against Protestant Dissenters, who one party would fain greatly indulge ; but if I miscalculate not they are weakened since last Parliament in that House, and I believe this Bill will scarce pass there, because so hotly pursued. Their Lordships have also read several addresses on appeals (one from Jack St. Leger) and appointed days for hearing. The Commons have burnt all their daylight in taking the oaths hitherto, a task will take up part if not all of this day. So that I have nothing more to be accountable for at this present.

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